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YOUR GUIDE TO CANADA'S BIGGEST STREET PARTY!

IT'S OUR DAY, EH!

Juels Peterson, 22, of London, Ont., shows her Canadian pride as people across the country get ready to celebrate Canada Day on Sunday. For a look at local celebrations, see page 4. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANGELA MULLINS, KATIE NAUS, DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

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NEWS

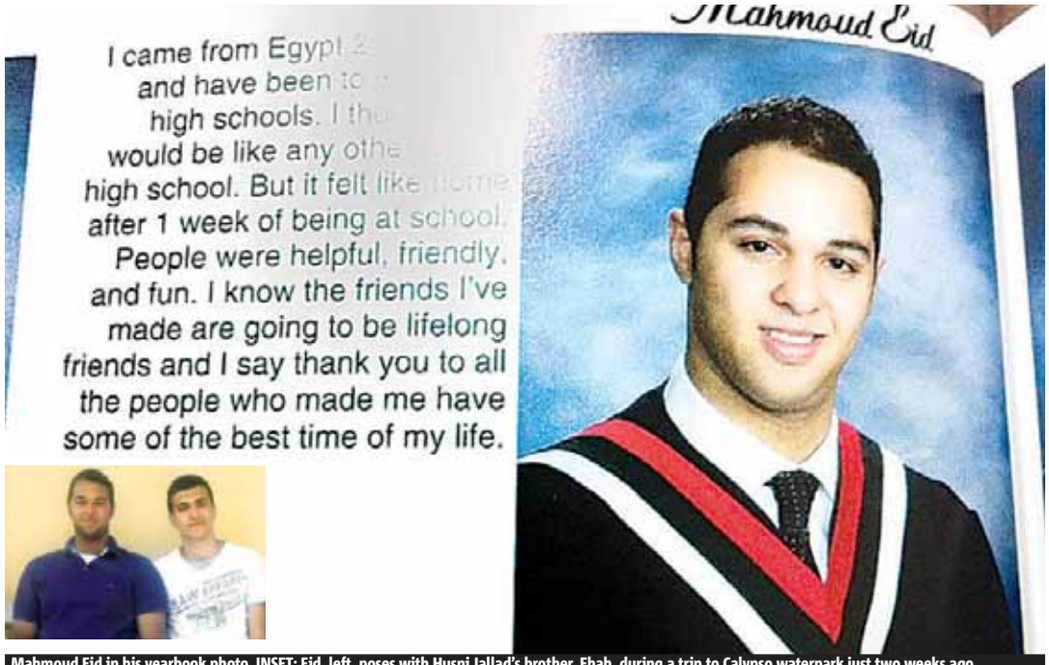
On the web

Pageant controversy

Grinning and waving, 14 women who survived the horrors of the Second World War paraded in an unusual pageant on Thursday, vying for the honour of being crowned Israel's first "Miss Holocaust Survivor." Organizers have billed the pageant as a celebration of life, but the event also stirred controversy in a country where millions have been touched by the Holocaust. Go to metronews.ca to read the full story.

Mobile news

Colin Hart admits the impression his anti-cheating wedding band leaves on the wearer's finger — "I Am Married" — lasts only about 15 minutes or so. But, he says, bar conversations don't usually last longer than that. Scan the code to find out how he and his wife are putting a twist on traditional wedding rituals.


I came from Egypt
and have been to
high schools. I th
would be like any othe
high school. But it felt like
after 1 week of being at school.
People were helpful, friendly,
and fun. I know the friends I've
made are going to be lifelong
friends and I say thank you to all
the people who made me have
some of the best time of my life.
Mahmoud Eid

Mahmoud Eid in his yearbook photo. INSET: Eid, left, poses with Husni Jallad's brother, Ehab, during a trip to Calypso waterpark just two weeks ago.
CONTRIBUTED

Best friend mourns death of teen cyclist

'In shock.' Friends for only two years, the short span of their friendship was filled with memories

JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

The 18-year-old cyclist who died after crashing into a hydro pole in Kanata Wednesday was supposed to graduate from Bell High School on Friday, a close friend told Metro.

Husni Jallad said it was a huge shock when he heard his friend Mahmoud Lokman Eid died yesterday. He last saw him three days earlier.

"I didn't see it coming, I'm in shock," said Jallad, 19. "He was like a brother to me. He was an amazing guy."

When paramedics arrived at McNeil Court, Eid was unconscious. They treated him for severe head injuries, but when they arrived at hospital, he lost all vital signs.

He was pronounced dead in hospital.

Jallad described Eid as "the kindest person on Earth" who was always smiling and had no enemies.

"I want everybody to pray for him because he deserves a better life," said Jallad.

The two young men knew each other only two years, but the all-too-short span of their friendship was filled with memories, including trips to Calypso waterpark and La Ronde.

Jallad does not know if Eid was wearing a helmet at the time of the collision.

Follow Joe Lofaro on Twitter @giuseppelo

School board extends condolences

Jennifer Adams, director of education for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, said a crisis management team will provide counselling to students and staff at Bell High School, where Eid attended.

- "On behalf of the students, staff and parent community of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and especially the Bell High School community, we extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mahmoud Lokman Eid," said Adams in an emailed statement. "Our school community is in mourning and together, we will support each other in this time of need."

Mix-up. Girl reported missing from bus was never actually found by police

Ottawa cops never found a child reportedly separated from her mother on an OC Transpo bus — despite telling media they had, a spokesperson said.

Ottawa police communications manager Carole Lavigne confirmed a concerned person called police to report a child missing from an OC Transpo bus on Wednesday afternoon.

Media outlets reported witnesses' accounts of a girl being separated from her mom when a bus pulled away from a stop before the mother could get off and that police eventually found the girl.

"We went, we investigated, but we did not locate any children that were without supervision," Lavigne said. "We did not get a call from a parent saying they had been separated from the child so the file was closed."

She said it was likely another officer had assumed police found the girl because the "file had been closed" and told that to media outlets.

Asked if police are concerned the girl is still missing, Lavigne said, "I think we would have a call from a parent if there was such a situation."

OC Transpo released a statement Thursday asking the mother to come forward to help with an investigation. Many witnesses reported the incident to OC Transpo, a city spokesperson said.

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

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Always the centrepiece of Canada celebrations, fireworks are slated to start at 10 p.m. on July 1. NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

'THE BEST PLACE TO LIVE'

More immigrants are landing on Canadian shores than ever before
In 2010, 280,636 new permanent residents, the highest increase of new Canadians in 50 years, joined the country

GRAHAM LANKTREE
graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

Since Canada Day is a time to celebrate all things Canadian, Metro invited a recent newcomer to share his first impressions of the country.

"I think this is the most peaceful land," said Abbas Mokabbery who came to Canada from Iran with his wife and two children in 2008. "Based on my knowledge, Canada was the best place to live and work."

Mokabbery and his family were offered a chance to come to Canada after a delegation of Canadian businessmen saw the innovative geomatics technology he had created at his company in Tehran to analyze geographic data.

He settled in Toronto first, but it wasn't long before he and his family left for Ottawa. "I love Ottawa," he said. "Canada has a very lovely cultural diversity. We go to all the different restaurants whether Indian, Chinese or Arabian."

"For me, Canada Day creates national pride. People should believe in this land and believe in their flag," he said. "This is a country with lots of opportunities and bringing immigrants here shares them."

Abbas Mokabbery METRO

Canada Day events

Parliament Hill
The noon show includes Feist, Simple Plan and Roch Voisine and a flyover by the Snowbirds and CF-18s. Other daytime events are the changing of the guard and a carillon concert. The evening show starting at 7:30 p.m. will feature some of the morning's artists and DJ Misstress Barbara and Marie Mai. Fireworks at 10 p.m.

Major's Hill Park
Family daytime activities include face painting, a VIA Rail miniature train and a War of 1812 exhibit. Calgary Stampede-centennial-themed demonstrations will showcase line dancing and lasso techniques. At 6 p.m. the Cultural Capital show features Deon Blyan, Beth Moore, Hey Ocean, Diable aux Corsets and The Good Lovelies.

Jacques-Cartier Park – Laurier Street and de Verdun Street, Gatineau
Starts June 30 with screenings of Monsieur Lazhar and Breakaway at 7 and 9 p.m. On Canada Day, visitors can climb into the cockpit of a CF-18 and a CF-114 Tudor, have their picture taken with the Grey Cup, enjoy a summer skate, or board a coast guard hovercraft. Fireworks at 10 p.m.

Zaphod's — 27 York St.
Zaphod's All-Day Canada Day Partaaaaay at noon with Trailer Park Bingo until 5 p.m. Lineup includes Black Market Candy, Hellbros, Static Revolt, Glorious Moonrockets and Still Native.

Escapade Music Festival – Ottawa Stadium
The festival starts June 30 with performances from world-renowned artists such as Sander van Door, Nadia Ali, and Aly and Fila. Ottawa native Ryan Labelle will also perform. Canada Day's lineup includes Afrojack, Dada Life and R3hab, as well as Canadian artists Rebecca and Fiona, Ariyan, The Killabits and Vilify.

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Teen Girls

S'up, Girlfriend?

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Heavenly Father, I ask in Jesus' name that You will surround me with valiant angels to lessen my insecurities, show me where my place lies in this world and to help me deal with all this.
Amen

Holy Spirit, You plead for us with an eloquence and a passion that we cannot hope to match.[2] *Set her request before the throne of heaven that it may be granted to her.*
Amen

Contemporary Christian Music ~ Songs of Encouragement

- Skillet – Whispers in the Dark
- Third Day – Lift Up Your Face
- Matthew West – Broken Girl
- Rachael Lampa – Remedy
- BarlowGirl – Never Alone
- Chris Tomlin – I Will Rise
- Francesca Battistelli – Angel By Your Side
- Casting Crowns – Praise You in this Storm
- Toby Mac – Get Back Up
- Britt Nicole – Gold
- Newboys – I'll Be
- Lecrae – Change

Peace be with you, Sister.

Michael John Harry "Mike" Cuddihey, Nepean. Rosary purchased at Saint Patrick's Basilica Gift Shop.
1. Guardian angels: Psalm 91:11. 2. Holy Spirit: Romans 8:26.

Rehabilitation program

Local philanthropist revitalizes hospital

The Queensway Carleton Hospital officially opened the doors to the new Sreedhar Natarajan Ambulatory Care Centre and Outpatient Rehabilitation Program on Thursday.

The new centre is part of an extensive revitalization of the west-end hospital and will provide for 40,000 out-patient visits a year, resulting in shorter wait-times, officials said.

The centre includes two gyms and clinics for minor surgeries and out-patient procedures.

Sreedhar Natarajan, an engineer and local philanthropist, donated $1 million to the $8-million centre. METRO

Sreedhar Natarajan sits on a stationary bike at the new Sreedhar Natarajan Ambulatory Care Centre on Thursday. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Safe sex awareness

City's Sex It Smart campaign names logo finalists

On Wednesday city councillors Jan Harder and Mathieu Fleury chose six finalists to be the face of Ottawa's Sex It Smart condom campaign.

The finalists were chosen from 51 logo designs created by youth.

"We've got the highest rate of HIV in the province," said Harder, "and also a high rate of teen pregnancy. "So this campaign is the responsible thing to do."

The final design will be revealed in August.

The campaign was launched last November. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Hydro Ottawa

Another blackout hits South Keys

A blackout hit 804 Hydro Ottawa customers in South Keys Thursday due to equipment failure. This follows outages in Ottawa's west end, which left more than 1,000 customers in the dark earlier this month. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Gas-tax funds likely secure, says minister

Funding. Gas-tax revenue of $32 million was tied to using Presto smart-card system, but maybe there's wiggle room, says Chiarelli

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

No promises, but Transportation Minister Bob Chiarelli says it's "highly, highly, highly unlikely" the province will withhold gas-tax funding from the City of Ottawa over the Presto debacle.

Asked at a media scrum Thursday if the city will lose any gas-tax money should council decide to abandon the Presto system over its technical problems, Chiarelli skirted the question a couple of times before answering.

The funding is intended for public transportation and one of the provisions in the agreement ties the funding to implementing the Presto.

"That's highly, highly, highly unlikely," he said.

Response

"That's highly, highly, highly unlikely."

Transportation Minister Bob Chiarelli when asked whether the province will withhold gas-tax funding from the City of Ottawa if the Presto system is abandoned due to its technical problems

The Presto system was set to launch in Ottawa on July 1, but that was pushed to February 2013 because the system didn't work in field testing.

Transit Commission chair Diane Deans told city council this week there is an exit strategy from the Presto contract if problems persist.

The minister's office refused to release agreement documents to Metro without a formal freedom of information act request, which can take up to 60 days.

Chiarelli said the Presto provision was put in the gas tax agreement "primarily for the Toronto area."

Deans said she is satisfied with Chiarelli's answer on the gas-tax issue.

Follow Jessica Smith on Twitter @jessiecatherine

'Jaws dropped' as Prime Minister Stephen Harper pops by

Prime Minister Stephen Harper poses for a ribbon cutting with Ottawa General Contractors staff. It's not every day the prime minister just drops by. But that's just what happened this week for the Ottawa General Contractors. The firm's owner, Moe Abbas, was preparing for the opening of a design centre, to be attended by Mayor Jim Watson, when he noticed a motorcade in traffic. "He (Harper) showed up before the event, and we were all standing outside with jaws dropped. Here was the prime minister at our event," said Abbas. Harper was on his way back from a dental appointment. Abbas seized the opportunity, chatted up security and convinced the prime minister to attend. CONTRIBUTED

CMA. Ottawa-Gatineau area leads way in family income

Ottawa-Gatineau had the highest median total family income at $90,790 before tax among Canadian census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in 2010, according to data released Wednesday from Statistics Canada.

The region's total dropped from the 2009 level of $91,050, for a change of 0.3 per cent.

Calgary and Edmonton were not that far behind, though, with $89,490 and $87,390 respectively. Toronto came in at $68,110.

The average for Canada in 2010 was $69,860. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Bylaw. No smoking at all on municipal properties

City council on Wednesday paved the way for a ban on smoking water pipes and non-tobacco products on municipal properties by amending the wording of a new bylaw.

Starting July 2, people will be fined if they are caught smoking hookah, or shisha, on city parks, beaches and other municipal properties.

The city will also end the warning period for smokers on July 2 and start handing out tickets to people caught smoking on patios, beaches, parks and municipal properties. JOE LOFARO/METRO

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Report slams NCC's proposal for east end interprovincial bridge

Infrastructure. The $500 million needed to build bridge would be better spent on LRT system, expert says

GRAHAM LANKTREE
graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

A new report by a U.S. city-planning expert rips apart plans for a controversial interprovincial bridge in Ottawa's east end.

"With downtown Ottawa facing the worst impact of heavy trucks passing through the middle of the city... the (National Capital Commission's) proposed solution — building a very expensive bridge east of the downtown core — will not solve this problem," writes Robert H. Freilich, a University of South California professor, land-use lawyer and author of From Sprawl to Sustainability.

NCC traffic models predict King Edward Street, which carries more than 2,600 trucks a day — many headed across the Macdonald-Cartier Bridge — will see truck trips rise to 5,800 daily by 2031.

A new bridge will help, the NCC has said.

Financed by a coalition of communities opposed to the bridge, the report attacks this plan, calling it "flawed from the start."

Follow Graham Lanktree on Twitter @MetroGraham

Possible routes for the proposed bridge. CONTRIBUTED

Viva Italia! Ottawa fans go wild for the boys in blue

Antonio Faranda, 12, screams with hundreds of other Azzurri fans inside the Sala San Marco Banquet and Conference Centre in Little Italy on Thursday as they watch the end of the Euro 2012 Italy vs. Germany semifinal game. It was a tense 93 minutes inside the venue, but as soon as the final whistle blew — leaving Italy with a 2-1 victory — the crowd erupted in cheers and then took to the streets to party. Traffic was backed up on Preston Street as fans blew horns and waved flags proudly. The banquet hall will host soccer fans again on Sunday as Italy takes on Spain in the finals. JOE LOFARO/METRO

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Product recall. Bacteria detected in Kimberly-Clark hand sanitizer

A hand sanitizer meant to protect people against germs is being recalled because of microbial contamination.

Kimberly-Clark is recalling its Kleenex-brand Luxury Foam Hand Sanitizer after company testing detected bacteria that may pose serious risks to people with weakened immune systems.

Health Canada says people with the lung disorder cystic fibrosis are especially vulnerable.

The affected hand sanitizer comes in one-litre and 1.2-litre containers, and is used in large-volume dispensers, such as those found in public areas and workspaces.

The recall affects about 430 containers, which were distributed to retail stores and wholesalers across Canada. Companies or individuals should remove the product from use. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Low risk for healthy

- The bacteria identified in the tested samples are from the Burkholderia cepacia group. These bacteria pose little risk to healthy Canadians, as their bodies are able to successfully fight off infections, Health Canada said Thursday.

Grounded

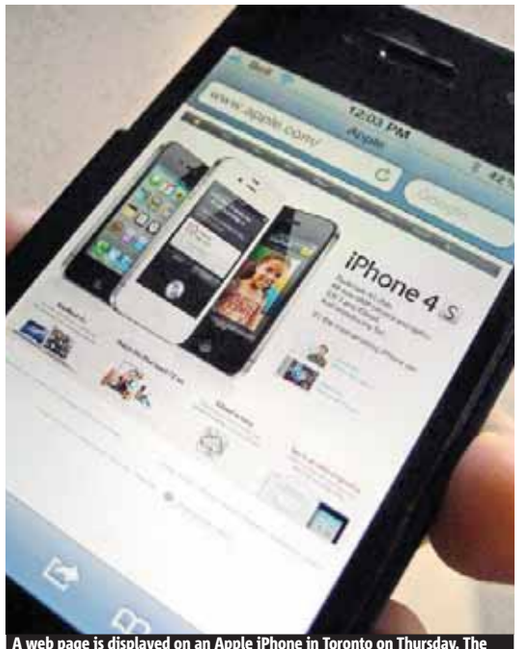
Flight diverted due to windshield crack

An Air Canada flight travelling from Toronto to London, England, was diverted to Halifax early Thursday because of a crack in the cockpit's windshield.

A spokeswoman for the Halifax Stanfield International Airport says officials received the call about the diversion around 3 a.m. and Flight 862 landed safely at 5:17 a.m.

Air Canada regional spokeswoman Isabelle Arthur says no emergency was declared, and the flight proceeded to Halifax without incident. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Class-action lawsuit against cellular giants can proceed



A web page is displayed on an Apple iPhone in Toronto on Thursday. The Supreme Court is allowing a class-action lawsuit against Canadian cellphone companies over system-access fees to proceed. GRAEME ROY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Supreme Court.

Judges allow 2004 case against Canada's major wireless carriers after several appeals

The Supreme Court of Canada is allowing a class-action lawsuit against Canadian cellphone companies over system-access fees to proceed.

The suit against some of the country's biggest wireless carriers, including Rogers, Telus and Bell Mobility, was launched in 2004.

The companies appealed the certification of the suit all the way to the Supreme Court, which dismissed the appeal Thursday — paving the way for it to proceed.

As is customary, the high court did not provide reasons for its decision.

The suit alleges the cellphone companies wrongfully collected the fees from customers, which were in addition to other monthly fees for phone service.

It calls for the respondents to be reimbursed.

The lawsuit claims that monthly "system-access fees" were created in response to annual fees charged by the government.

However, "these fees amount to less than 20 per cent of the additional charges being charged to their customers under the guise of government taxes," the claim says.

The access-fee charge, typically $6.95, "bears no relation to any actual cost of providing wireless or cellular services, but was an amount selected ... by the defendants to proliferate the misrepresentation (that) ... charges were being collected as a tax on behalf of a government agency." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Out of appeals

"We are confident the case is without merit and baseless, at least as it related to Telus."

Telus statement

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U.S. to share data about Canadians

Border deal. New privacy charter intended to make border crossing easier without sacrificing mutual security

The United States will be allowed to share information about Canadians with other countries under a sweeping new border deal.

A newly released binational privacy charter says that in most cases it won't have to tell Canada about its plan to pass along the information.

Information-sharing about security cases has sometimes been a sore point between the two countries since the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

Canada and the U.S. jointly released the 12-point statement of privacy principles late Thursday afternoon, covering areas including data quality, information security, effective oversight, and redress for people whose privacy is infringed.

The principles help flesh out a perimeter security deal struck by the two countries last year.

The deal is intended to help smooth the passage of people and cargo over the Canada-U.S. border while bolstering continental security.

The most contentious feature could be the plan to exchange entry information collected from all persons at the border, which would serve as a record of exit from the other country.

The privacy charter's preamble says greater information sharing between Canada and the U.S. ``is vital to protecting the security of our citizens'' and that personal information is to be provided, received and used only in accordance with domestic and international laws applicable to the two countries.

The principles say Canada or the U.S. may transfer information received from the other to a third country.

For instance, the U.S. could send information received from Canada to an ally abroad. However, the U.S. could do so only if American law allowed it. And it must be done in accordance with international agreements and arrangements.

In the absence of such "international agreements and arrangements," the U.S. must inform Canada prior to the transfer, or as soon as possible after the transfer in the case of urgent circumstances.

The federal privacy commissioner's office, which was consulted during drafting of the principles, said Thursday it would ``take some time to read these in order to see how any suggestions we provided may have been reflected.''

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neighbours

A look at the border:

- **Long.** The border is 8,891 long, including 2,475 with Alaska.
- **Busy.** Canadians made over 48 million trips to the U.S. last year. That number is expected to increase as more duty exemptions come into effect.
- **Porous.** The 9-11 Commission found that it was easy to enter the U.S. from Canada illegally. And that smuggling is on the increase.

Raising a rainbow for Pride Week

Nova Scotia Premier Dexter participates in a flag-raising ceremony in front of Province House in Halifax Thursday to officially launch community Pride events across the province. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Pride Week celebrations in Nova Scotia. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

G20 protests. Agency 'in the dark' about policing

A new report concludes the civilian agency responsible for oversight of Toronto police found itself largely in the dark when it came to policing at the G20 summit.

The review by retired justice John Morden finds the police services board didn't ask enough questions of the police chief, wrongly believing it couldn't seek information on operational matters.

Some members of the board blamed Chief Bill Blair for being secretive but the report faults the board for failing to get the information it should have had.

Morden says the board had far too little time — just four months — to prepare for the June 2010 summit, which was marred by vandalism and the arrest of more than 1,100 people.

In effect, the report, which makes 38 recommendations, found the board became "a mere bystander in a process it was supposed to lead."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skilled workers. Popular immigrant plans on hold

Federal Immigration Minister Jason is putting the brakes on new applications under two programs popular with people wanting to come to Canada from abroad.

Kenney told a Calgary business audience that the federal government is placing a moratorium on the Federal Skilled Worker Program and the Immigrant Investor Program.

Both were scheduled to reopen for applications at the end of the month.

He says he hopes the programs will be revamped by the end of the year.

Ottawa has already legislated away a seven-year backlog of people who applied to get into Canada before rules were rejigged.

Kenney had already announced plans to overhaul the investor program in the spring and his intention is to consult with stakeholders, the provinces and territories on how best to reform it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WHY WEIGHT?

Families mourn as outrage mounts in Elliot Lake

A man lays flowers at a memorial site the day after the recovery of two bodies at the Algo Centre Mall in Elliot Lake on Thursday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blame game begins.

Mall owner's lawyer admits the collapse 'will undoubtedly lead to litigation'

An array of accusations from local residents, death threats against a mall owner and the prospect of a class-action lawsuit all collided in the aftermath of a deadly roof collapse in Elliot Lake in northern Ontario Thursday, even as the province promised to scrutinize every angle of the tragedy.

Those closest to the victims, however, said their many unanswered questions could wait while they mourned.

"Frankly, I myself have a lot of unanswered questions. Now is not the time to be asking those questions," said an emotional Gary Gendron, whose fiancée Lucie Aylwin was killed in the collapse at Algo Centre Mall. Gendron did add, however, that he hadn't considered his fiancée's place of work a safe one.

Unanswered questions

"The basic question is: Why did this happen and why was this permitted to happen?"

Ontario New Democrat Mike Mantha
His constituency office was in the mall, and he said there were numerous complaints from residents about the mall's condition.

"I think myself, that mall should have been closed long time ago," he said, drawing cheers from a group of local residents. "People made a lot of complaints about the mall but nothing changed."

After an arduous five-day rescue mission which ended with the retrieval of two bodies, Premier Dalton McGuinty promised Thursday that the province will "carefully review" how it responded to the collapse.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugee care. Students send 59 cents to Harper, ask others to do same

A group of university students in Winnipeg is sending 59 cents to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and wants other Canadians to do likewise.

The students at the Canadian School of Peacebuilding at the Canadian Mennonite University say that's all it would cost every Canadian a year to restore health-care benefits to refugees.

Starting Saturday, Citizenship and Immigration Canada will stop paying for supplemental health benefits for refugees during their first year here.

The cuts prompted health-care professionals to rally across Canada, including in Winnipeg at The Forks on June 18.

And it inspired the students to take action — they created a video, now posted on YouTube in which they ask all Canadians to send 59 cents to the Prime Minister's Office "to let him know that we will not stand for these cuts."

It shows people finding loose change in couch cushions and sock drawers, then mailing it to the prime minister.

"We believe that if Canadians stop to consider the effect which these changes will have on the most vulnerable portion of our global society, that our country's annual savings of 59 cents per person to keep the federal Interim Health Program open for refugees will be seen as insignificant," the video says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

What's it worth to you?

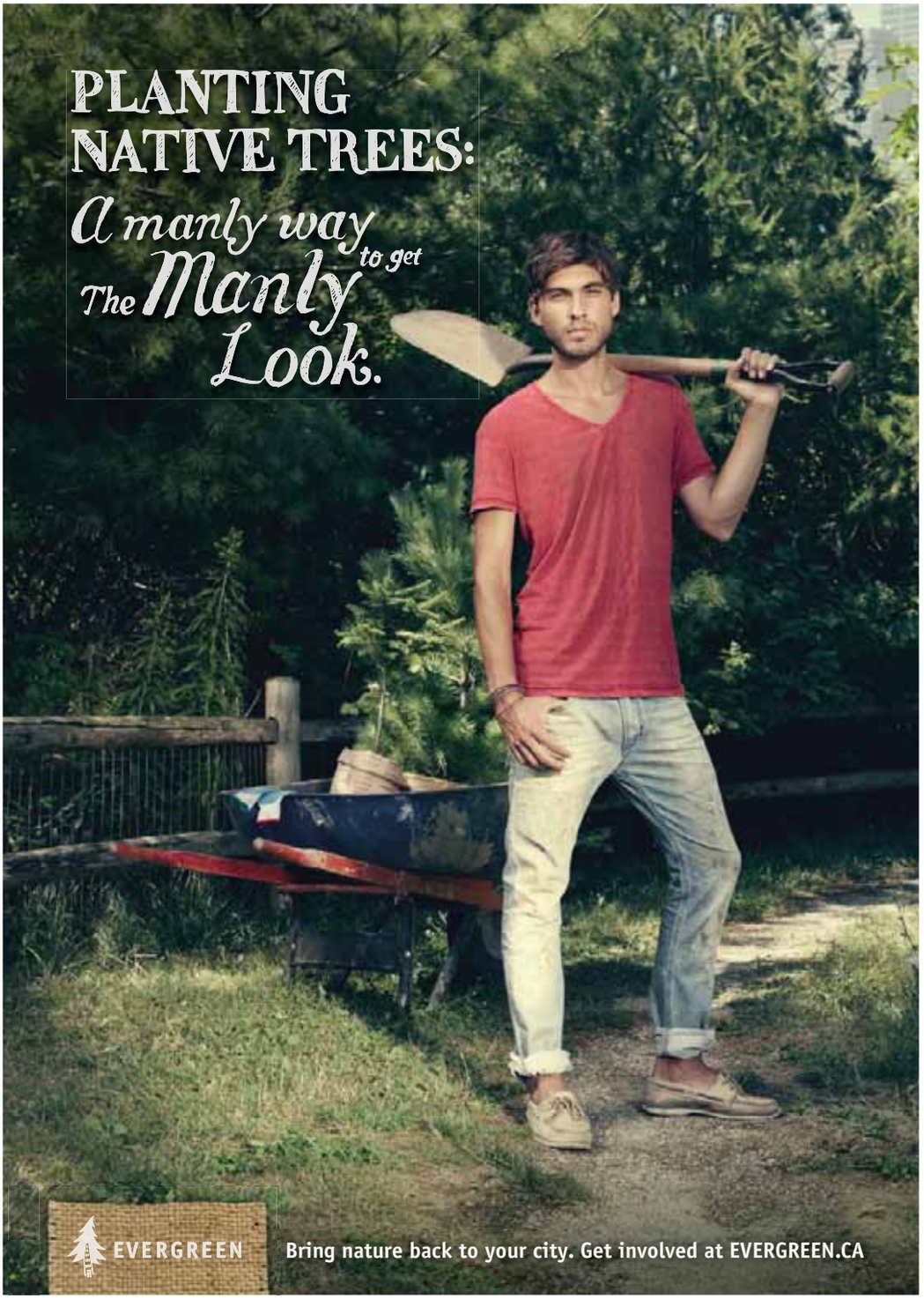
59¢

The anticipated saving of cutting the program works out to $20 million a year and, divided by Canada's population, that equals 59 cents per person, student Matt Dueck, 25, figured.

Fundamentally unsound

A west-end Toronto house will be demolished after it slumped toward the home next door during renovations to the foundation. The home at 63 Maria St. was under renovation when it shifted too far to be salvaged.

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Came to pick vegetables.
After 84 years, L.A. man becomes a U.S. citizen

A 102-year-old Filipino man who came to the U.S. as a youth in 1928 to pick vegetables became a citizen during a touching naturalization ceremony in Los Angeles.

"I'm happy," Philippines-born Joaquin Arciago Guzman said in his native Tagalog after Wednesday's ceremony, where about 7,300 joined him in taking the citizenship oath.

Only 27 people older than 100 have become citizens in the past 50 years, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

"It's extremely rare to see anyone over 100," said Nancy Alby, the agency's field office director for Los Angeles County. "We get a handful in their 90s and 80s. It's more common to see people in their 70s."

The oldest person ever to become a citizen was Manik Bokchalian. She was 117 when she took the oath in 1997.

Guzman left the Philippines to harvest lettuce and cabbage in the fertile fields south of San Francisco.

Joaquin Arciago Guzman swearing an oath of citizenship Wednesday. KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He returned to the Philippines and married Paz Irene Gatchalian, then came back to the United States before the birth of the first of their six children. Guzman brought his wife and two of their adult children to the United States in 1984.

They became American citizens, but Guzman waited to submit an application for reasons that aren't clear.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tempers flare at Chilean student protest

Students clash with riot police during a protest to demand that President Sebastian Pinera's government overhaul the education system to guarantee free, quality public education for all Chileans, in front of La Moneda presidential palace in Santiago Thursday. HECTOR RETAMAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No U.S. citizenship for war criminal

John Demjanjuk. Convicted in Germany for Nazi atrocities, former auto worker died while case was still under appeal

A U.S. appeals court on Thursday rejected a request to restore the U.S. citizenship of a recently deceased autoworker convicted of Nazi war crimes.

The Court of Appeals ruled that John Demjanjuk cannot regain his citizenship posthumously, saying his death made the case moot.

Demjanjuk died March 17 in Germany at age 91. His defence attorneys had said the U.S. withheld potentially helpful material in his case and asked the court to restore his citizenship.

One of Demjanjuk's attorneys said the defence was evaluating the opinion. There was no immediate comment from Demjanjuk's family.

The Ukraine-born Demjanjuk lived for decades in the U.S. before he was convicted by a German court in May 2011 on 28,060 counts of being an accessory to murder at the Sobibor death camp in occupied Poland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alleged violation

Defence says Nazi ID card could be fake

The defence team alleged that a judge violated basic fairness by ruling against John Demjanjuk's citizenship appeal without holding a hearing on a 1985 secret FBI report uncovered recently by The Associated Press.

The document indicates that the FBI believed a Nazi ID card purportedly showing that Demjanjuk served as a death camp guard was a Soviet-made fake.

The government responded to the 1985 document with an affidavit last year from retired FBI agent Thomas Martin.

Martin said the report he wrote was based on speculation and not on any investigation.

He said he had reached no conclusions about the ID card's authenticity.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oldest yet

20,000-year-old pottery found

Pottery fragments found in a south China cave have been confirmed to be 20,000 years old, making them the oldest known pottery in the world, archaeologists say. The findings, which will appear in the journal Science on Friday, add to recent efforts that have dated pottery piles in east Asia to more than 15,000 years ago, refuting theories that the invention of pottery began about 10,000 years ago when humans moved from being hunter-gathers to farmers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greek tragedy

Man dies after he falls off Acropolis

Police say a man who fell off Greece's most famous monument, the Acropolis, in central Athens, has died.

Authorities said the circumstances surrounding the fall Thursday morning were not clear. The 42-year-old Greek bank employee, whose identity has not been made public, had suffered serious head injuries in the fall.

The Acropolis hill and the 2,500-year-old marble temples that stand atop it are the capital city's key tourist attraction.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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New evidence. Saturn's largest moon may have an ocean beneath surface

This true color image shows Saturn's largest moon, Titan, passing in front of the planet and its rings. NASA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scientists reported Thursday on the strongest sign yet that Saturn's giant moon may have a salty ocean beneath its chilly surface.

If confirmed, it would catapult Titan into an elite class of solar system moons harbouring water, an essential ingredient for life.

Titan boasts methane-filled seas at the poles and a possible lake near the equator. And it's long been speculated that Titan contains a hidden liquid layer, based on mathematical modelling and electric field measurements made by the Huygens spacecraft that landed on the surface in 2005.

The latest evidence is still indirect, but outside scientists said it's probably the best that can be obtained short of sending a spacecraft to drill into the surface — a costly endeavour that won't happen anytime soon.

Expert

"Any environment that has liquid water needs to be investigated carefully,.

Jean-Luc Margot, planetary scientist of the University of California

The research looks convincing, said Gabriel Tobie of France's University of Nantes.

"If the analysis is correct, this is a very important finding," Tobie said in an email. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Euro 2012

Russian, Spanish associations fined

UEFA fined the Russian and Spanish football associations a total of $62,000 US on Thursday for racist abuse by their fans at European Championship matches.

UEFA said its disciplinary panel found both countries guilty of "improper conduct of its fans (racist behaviour, racist chanting)." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lost & found

Sunk Italian WW2 ship located

The Italian navy says the wreckage of the World War II battleship Roma, sunk by German planes 69 years ago with the loss of 1,352 lives, has been located north of Sardinia.

The navy says the wreckage was located Thursday, some 1,000 metres under the sea, by a deep-sea diving robot. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korean defector claims she was tricked

True story? Woman calls herself an 'ingrate' for leaving country in rare televised press conference

A North Korean woman said Thursday that she was tricked into defecting six years ago by South Korean agents who offered to arrange a reunion with her father, who went to the South during the Korean War.

The rare public account that 66-year-old Pak Jong Suk told to local and foreign reporters at a news conference at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang could not be independently confirmed. South Korea's Unification Ministry said it was investigating and would release its findings later.

"I am an ingrate who has betrayed my motherland to seek better living while others devoted themselves to building a thriving nation, tightening their belts," said Pak, clad in a pink traditional Korean dress.

It is unusual for North Korea to hold and televise a news conference for foreign as well as local media featuring ordinary citizens — particularly a former defector. It was not possible to immediately verify whether Pak spoke on government orders or of her own volition, but North Korea has bristled in recent weeks at allegations of rights abuses and maltreatment of repatriated defectors.

Crossing over

23,000

More than 23,000 North Koreans have defected since the Korean War ended in 1953.

Pak said she slipped undetected across the Tumen River from the North Korean city of Chongjin into China in March 2006, after being promised that she would be reunited with her father in the Chinese city of Qingdao. She said she hoped to get money from him. Three months later, after paying smugglers, she said she was tricked by South Korean intelligence agents into boarding a boat that landed in South Korea.

The circumstances of how she returned to the North were not clear. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ecological architecture

A man uses the sky walk during a viewing of the Supertrees at Graden by the Bay at Marina Bay Sands on Thursday in Singapore. The structures vary from 25-50 metres in height and stand in the financial district. CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

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Talk about a wrecked ship

A salvage yard along the Fraser River in Silverdale, B.C., is shown on Thursday. The debris, which includes a ferry named the Queen of Sidney, is causing officials to be concerned with environmental damage if the ferry breaks loose from its ropes. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scientist finds mineral that's older than Earth

Space. Discovery could help answer questions about the beginnings of solar system

One of the oldest minerals in the solar system may be a piece of the puzzle in understanding how the universe was formed. The mineral was discovered in the Allende meteorite by a scientist at the California Institute of Technology.

The mineral — older than Earth — has been given the name panguite after Pan Gu, a mythological figure in ancient Chinese folklore who is said to have created the world by separating the heaven and Earth from chaos.

"This is a new material," said Chi Ma, senior scientist at the Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences at California Institute of Technology.

"I thought Pan Gu was the perfect fit. I'm Chinese."

The International Mineralogy Association heartily endorsed Ma's name.

The report on the discovery by Ma and a team of collaborators from the High Pressure Science and Engineering Centre and Department of Geoscience at the University of Nevada and the Advanced Photon Source at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois is published in the July issue of American Mineralogist.

Quote

"Each of the minerals I've found is like a piece of the puzzle in a big picture. This puzzle is to better understand the early solar evolution; how the solar nebula evolved."

Chi Ma, senior scientist, California Institute of Technology

The Allende meteorite fell near Pueblito de Allende, Chihuahua, Mexico on Feb. 8, 1969. It's estimated to be 4.5 billion years old.

The study of the meteorite has "had a tremendous influence on current thinking about processes, timing, and chemistry in the primitive solar nebula and small planetary bodies," Ma and his co-authors write in their study.

Described as a new "ultra-refractory oxide," panguite is among the oldest solid materials in the solar system, the study said. Panguite is a new titanium oxide crystal, explained Ma.

Ma also found evidence of panguite in the Murchison meteorite which fell to Earth near the town of Murchison, Australia in 1969.

Studying panguite and the other new minerals in meteorites is critical to understanding the processes behind the early formation of the solar system, Ma said.

Panguite was formed at very high temperatures and was created as gases turned to solids as the solar nebula began to form, he said.

"Each of those refractory minerals gives us a window to look at the processes that happened at the beginning of our solar system."

He and his team are continuing to do more studies on panguite and the other minerals Ma has found.

"Each of the minerals I've found is like a piece of the puzzle in a big picture. This puzzle is to better understand the early solar evolution; how the solar nebula evolved."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Negotiations

Bruce Power tries to avert price cut

Last-minute talks are under way between Bruce Power and the Ontario Power Authority as the company tries to maintain guaranteed prices for electricity from its Bruce A nuclear power plant.

But neither side was talking about the back-room negotiations Thursday, as the clock ticked toward a July 1 deadline.

At stake are hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for Bruce Power — the difference between Bruce A's guaranteed contract price, and the much-lower market price.

Bruce Power is facing the potential loss of a contracted price of 6.8 cents per kilowatt hour for the output from the two operating units at Bruce A.

As matters stand, on July 1 the price will revert to the fluctuating wholesale market price.

So far this year the market price has averaged about 2 cents per kilowatt hour, although in periods of high demand it can spurt much higher.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fossilized tracks show animal moved 585 million years ago

A faint skittering of tracks preserved in the fossilized sediment of an ancient shallow sea has prompted University of Alberta scientists to push back the date of the first self-propelled animal.

The creature wasn't much, says their paper published Thursday in the prestigious journal Science. No more than a slug-like little beastie about the size of a rice grain.

But it crawled around looking for tasty algae some 585 million years ago — 30 million years earlier than any previously known animal was able to move on its own.

"We basically have found the very first evidence of animals that can move," said geobiologist Kurt Konhauser. "Suddenly, we've gone from a sponge-type of animal that just sat there to something that is capable of moving around."

The fossils were found in silt stone excavated in Uruguay.

The stone was probably created a few hundred metres from the shore of a primordial ocean.

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Egypt. New first lady nothing like predecessor

Egypt's new first lady Naglaa Ali Mahmoud and her predecessor Suzanne Mubarak share one thing in common: Both have seen their husbands and sons detained in prison.

The similarities appear to end there. Suzanne Mubarak was an elegant, sophisticated university graduate with a British mother. She was criticized for being elitist, vain, self-important, overbearing and oblivious to the plight of ordinary Egyptians.

By contrast, Islamist president-elect Mohammed Morsi's wife is a conservative, Muslim who wears a veil and did not attend college. Detractors consider her style to be emblematic of Egypt's steady march toward conservative Islam, while supporters suggest her modest demeanour and background embody the democratic spirit of the revolution.

Mahmoud has reportedly said she would prefer not to live in the Presidential Palace, and the couple has yet to move in. She also doesn't want to be called the first lady.

Title?

"Who said that the president's wife is the first lady, anyways?"

Naglaa Ali Mahmoud

Instead, she prefers to be called Umm Ahmed, which means mother of Ahmed — her eldest son. It's a moniker some secular elites might disdain as patriarchal. Her defenders note that unlike the two first ladies before her, she has not taken on her husband's last name in a sign of self-assertion that falls in line with Islamic tradition throughout Egypt. If she must have a title, she says, she would not mind being called "the first servant" of the people.

Egyptians will be watching to see whether Umm Ahmed meets foreign dignitaries and attends conferences and other events. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zimbabwe

'Witches' to be examined

Court officials in Zimbabwe say two self-confessed witches who claim to have flown on a magical grain-threshing basket are to undergo medical and psychiatric examinations. Prosecutors said two women were arrested earlier this month after being found naked in a yard. The women are charged under witchcraft laws carrying the penalty of a fine. In local belief, the basket is equivalent to the West's witch broomstick. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Game goes global

'Communist Monopoly' for sale

A popular Polish board game based on the hardships of communism now has international editions. Poland's National Remembrance Institute released "Kolejka" last year to teach youth about frustrations and shortages during the decades of communism. Though referred to as "Communist Monopoly" the game doesn't let players collect rent or buy land. Instead, they can't buy anything after waiting in long lines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Supreme Court upholds health law

Partisan divide. Obama's health-care changes have been sharply criticized in the run-up to elections

Supporters of U.S. President Barack Obama's health-care law celebrate outside the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., Thursday after the court's ruling. DAVID GOLDMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the heart of President Barack Obama's health-care overhaul, handing him a huge election-year political victory and keeping in force the legislative centrepiece of his term, a law aimed at covering more than 30 million uninsured Americans.

The decision means the historic overhaul — opposed by virtually all Republicans including Mitt Romney, Obama's challenger — will continue to go into effect over the next several years, affecting the way that countless Americans receive and pay for their medical care.

The decision, written by conservative Chief Justice John Roberts, sided with Obama on the centrepiece of the law, which requires all Americans to have health insurance or face a federal fine.

"Whatever the politics, today's decision was a victory for people all over this country," Obama said, speaking on national television.

"It should be pretty clear by now that I didn't do this because it was good politics," he said. "I did it because it was good for the country."

By letting the law stand, the decision keeps the U.S. on a course toward joining all other major developed countries in guaranteeing health care for all its citizens.

Republicans were quick to respond. Romney said his mission now was to see the overhaul repealed, calling the changes in the system "bad law."

Republican Party Chairman Reince Priebus added in a statement: "Today's Supreme Court decision sets the stakes for the November election. Now, the only way to save the country from ObamaCare's budget-busting government takeover of health care is to elect a new president."

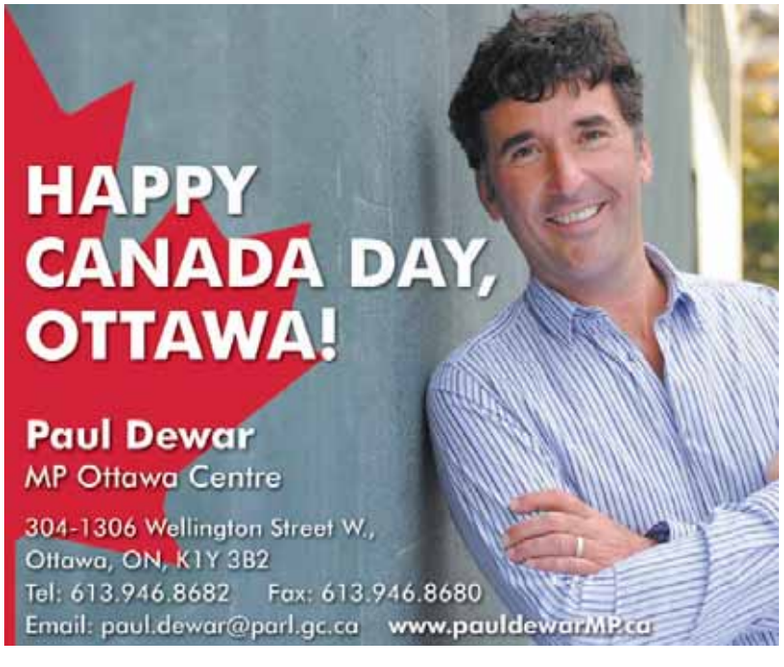
Polls show a majority of Americans do not support the health-care overhaul, which, ironically, was based on a plan put in place in Massachusetts when Romney was governor there. The Massachusetts law has been widely supported by residents since it took effect in 2006. While Romney defends his plan, he has said such changes should be left to states and not be imposed by the federal government. He has promised to revoke the overhaul if he wins the election in November.

The court's liberal justices, Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, joined Roberts in the decision.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Health insurance 2014

- The law would prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage to people with existing health problems.
- It gives subsidies to help uninsured middle-class households pay premiums, and expands federal health care for the poor.
- 26 million may remain without coverage after the law is fully implemented.



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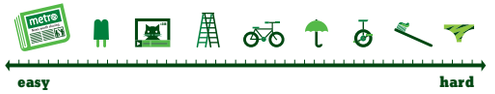

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Turkey deploys heavy weaponry to Syrian border as tensions rise

Former allies.
Turkey now among strongest critics of Assad regime; violence in Syria has claimed some 14,000 lives

Syrians inspect burned cars at the site of a blast in the Syrian capital of Damascus on Thursday. MUZAFFAR SALMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turkey deployed anti-aircraft guns, rocket launchers and other weapons along its border with Syria on Thursday.

It was a military buildup that came as world powers showed new urgency to resolve the crisis in Syria before it ignites the region.

A bomb exploded in central Damascus near a busy market and the country's main justice complex, wounding at least three people, damaging cars in a parking lot and sending a black cloud rising above the Syrian capital.

It was not clear who was behind the bombing.

Much of the violence that has gripped Syria since the uprising began in March 2011 has been sanctioned by the government of President Bashar Assad to crush dissent.

Rebel fighters are launching increasingly deadly attacks on regime targets, and several massive suicide attacks this year suggest al-Qaida or other extremists are joining the fray.

Turkey, a former ally of Syria, has become one of the strongest critics of the Assad regime, and tensions between the two countries spiked following the downing of a Turkish military plane last week. A small convoy of Turkish military trucks towing anti-aircraft guns entered a military outpost on the border opposite a similar Syrian outpost. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tinderbox

More and more flee Syria

The UN refugee agency says the number of people fleeing the violence in Syria could double to 185,000 by the end of the year.

Agency officials say the number of refugees who have fled Syria has already doubled to 96,000 since March, forcing them to redraw their plans for how best to help — and the amount of money they will need to provide the help.

A UN official praised Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey for "tremendous generosity" by providing refugee camps and other help.

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Greek police make arrests in fake-euro-coin scam

Funny money.
Busts came after tip from authorities in neighbouring Bulgaria

Police in northern Greece have arrested two men accused of making tens of thousands of counterfeit two-euro coins.

A Bulgarian man aged 59 and a 41-year-old alleged Greek accomplice were arrested near Greece's second largest city, Thessaloniki. Police were also seeking the arrest of a 40-year-old Greek man.

Police seized thousands of nickel- and copper-alloy pieces used to make the coins. They also seized machinery that embeds the coins with the Greek national design.

The arrests were made in Epanomi, 20 kilometres outside Thessaloniki.

Police worked with the European Union's crime-fighting agency Europol.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police display moulds for counterfeit two-euro coins in the Greek city of Thessaloniki on Thursday.
NIKOLAS GIAKOUMIDIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bosnia. Karadzic acquitted on one charge of genocide, trial continues

The Yugoslav war-crimes tribunal acquitted former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic of one charge of genocide Thursday but upheld 10 other war crimes counts.

The counts all relate to atrocities in Bosnia's bloody war.

While the decision was a setback for prosecutors and angered survivors in Bosnia, the 10 pending charges against Karadzic include another genocide count covering his alleged involvement in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys.

The charge that was dismissed Thursday covered the mass killings, expulsions and persecution by Serb forces of Muslims and Croats from Bosnian towns early in the country's 1992-95 war.

Judge Oh-Gon Kwon said prosecutors did not provide enough evidence to "be capable of supporting a conviction of genocide in the (Bosnian) municipalities."

The trial will continue later this year on the remaining counts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican City

Rare Vatican press conference

The Vatican bank, one of the most secretive institutions in the Vatican, opened its doors to journalists Thursday in a bid to show it is serious about fighting money-laundering and being more financially transparent.

During a three-hour PowerPoint presentation, the bank's director Paolo Cipriani outlined the unusual nature of the Institute for Religious Works, the bank's official name.

He also sought to refute media allegations that the bank has been less than co-operative with requests for financial information.

There are ongoing suspicions by Italian authorities that it hasn't abided by anti-money laundering norms.

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B612 Foundation advances asteroid-seeking telescope

Ideas. Who will protect us from killer space rock? A team of former astronauts and NASA scientists thinks it's up to them

Ed Lu of B612 Foundation shows a model of the Sentinel Space Telescope.
PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a bold plan unveiled Thursday, a group of former NASA employees wants to launch its own space telescope to spot and track small and mid-sized space rocks capable of wiping out a city or continent. They could sound early warnings if a rogue asteroid appeared headed toward our planet.

So far, the idea from the B612 Foundation — named after the home asteroid of the Earth-visiting prince in Antoine de Saint-Exupery's The Little Prince — is on paper only.

Such an effort would cost upward of several hundred million dollars.

Asteroids are leftovers from the formation of the solar system some 4.5 billion years ago. Most reside in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, but some get nudged into Earth's neighbourhood.

NASA and a network of astronomers routinely scan the skies for these near-Earth objects. They've found 90 per cent of the biggest threats — asteroids that are considered major killers. Scientists believe one such asteroid wiped out the dinosaurs.

But the group thinks more attention should be paid to the estimated half a million smaller asteroids — similar in size to the one that exploded over Siberia in 1908 and levelled more than 2,071 square kilometres of forest.

Since its birth, the foundation has focused on finding ways to deflect an incoming asteroid. Ideas include sending an intercepting spacecraft to aiming a nuclear bomb, but none have been tested. Last year, the group shifted focus to seek out asteroids with a telescope.

"We're not all about doom and gloom," said chairman Ed Lu. "We're about opening up the solar system. We're talking about preserving life on this planet." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Screaming pilot pleads not guilty to interfering with JetBlue flight

Mentally competent. Passengers had to wrestle man to the floor after yelling about Jesus, al-Qaida

Clayton Osbon
GETTY IMAGES

A JetBlue Airways pilot who left the cockpit during a flight and screamed about religion and terrorists has pleaded not guilty to interfering with a flight crew.

Court records show Clayton F. Osbon entered the plea at his Thursday arraignment in federal court in Amarillo.

U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson ruled earlier this month that Osbon is mentally competent to stand trial. Her ruling followed a court-ordered psychiatric evaluation.

Osbon was indicted after a March 27 incident on flight from Las Vegas to New York.

Passengers say they had to wrestle him to the floor after he left the cockpit mid-flight and ran through the plane's cabin yelling about Jesus and al-Qaida.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

20

No trial date has been set. Osbon faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

B.C. area braces for rising waters, flooding

Flood waters from the Fraser River surround a farm in Chilliwack, B.C., on Thursday. Fraser Valley residents are bracing for a weekend of rising waters and potential flooding. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

British ex-minister sold info to communist spies, report says

The British government said Thursday it would investigate claims an ex-minister sold information to communist spies for a decade during the Cold War in clandestine meetings in cocktail lounges and swank restaurants.

The BBC reported that files in the archive of the Czech Security Service show that Raymond Mawby, an ex-Conservative Party lawmaker who briefly served as a junior minister in the mid-1960s, provided intelligence to spies working for Czechoslovakia — then a communist state — for a decade from around 1961 to 1971.

According to the files, Mawby offered information on his colleagues and even provided a sketch of the layout of the prime minister's office.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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‘Generation rent’ choosing urban life

New wave. U.S. city growth surpasses that of suburbia as young adults prefer to rent

For the first time in a century, most of America’s largest cities are growing at a faster rate than their surrounding suburbs.

New 2011 census estimates released Thursday highlight the dramatic switch.

Driving the resurgence are young adults, who are delaying careers, marriage and children amid college debt and persistently high unemployment.

While economists tend to believe the city boom is temporary, that is not stopping many city-planning agencies and apartment developers from seeking to boost their appeal to the sizable demographic of 18-to-29-year-olds. They make up roughly 1 in 6 Americans, and some sociologists are calling them “generation rent.”

“I will never live in the suburbs,” said Jaclyn King, 28, who rents a house in Denver. “I just like being connected to everything down here — concerts, work, restaurants, all of it. This is where everything’s at.”

The last time growth in big cities surpassed that in outlying areas occurred prior to 1920, before the rise of mass-produced automobiles spurred expansion beyond city cores. Businesses are taking notice.

“There’s a bigger focus on building residences near transportation hubs, such as a train or subway station, because fewer people want to travel by car for an hour and a half for work anymore,” said Royal Shepard, an analyst with S&P Capital IQ.

Sociologist Katherine Newman chronicled the financial struggles of young adults in a recent book. From 2009 to 2011, just nine per cent of 29–to-34-year-olds were approved for a first-time mortgage.

“Young adults simply can’t amass the down payments needed and don’t have the earnings,” she said. “They will be renting for a very long time.”

But some economists aren’t so certain “generation rent” will last, pointing to practical considerations such as better schools in suburbs, government tax breaks for home ownership and subsidies for travel in rural areas, as well as rapidly rising downtown rents. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. census stats

- **Primary cities** with populations of more than 1 million grew by 1.1 per cent last year, compared with 0.9 per cent in suburbs.
- **New Orleans** saw the biggest rebound in growth in the last year — 3.7 per cent versus 0.6 per cent.
- **City growth** surpassed or equaled that of suburbs in roughly 33 of 51 large metro areas, compared to just five in the last decade.

Dodging the relentless crow

A crow dive-bombs Melanie Lochert as she walks across the Morrison Bridge Thursday in Portland, Ore. For the past two months, people crossing the west end of the Morrison Street Bridge have been dodging a crow that’s been protecting a nest. From morning to night, the bird swoops down from the sky, flying inches from the heads of unsuspecting bicyclists and pedestrians. Frequent travellers have taken to protecting themselves with umbrellas and hoods. RICK BOWMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wildfires. Obama to tour worst-hit areas in Colorado

Hundreds of homes have been destroyed by an out-of-control Colorado wildfire that has forced more than 30,000 people to flee, officials said Thursday.

Tens of thousands of residents of Colorado Springs took refuge with friends or family and crammed into hotels and shelters as army troops helped firefighters protect the U.S. Air Force Academy. No injuries or damage to the campus structures were reported.

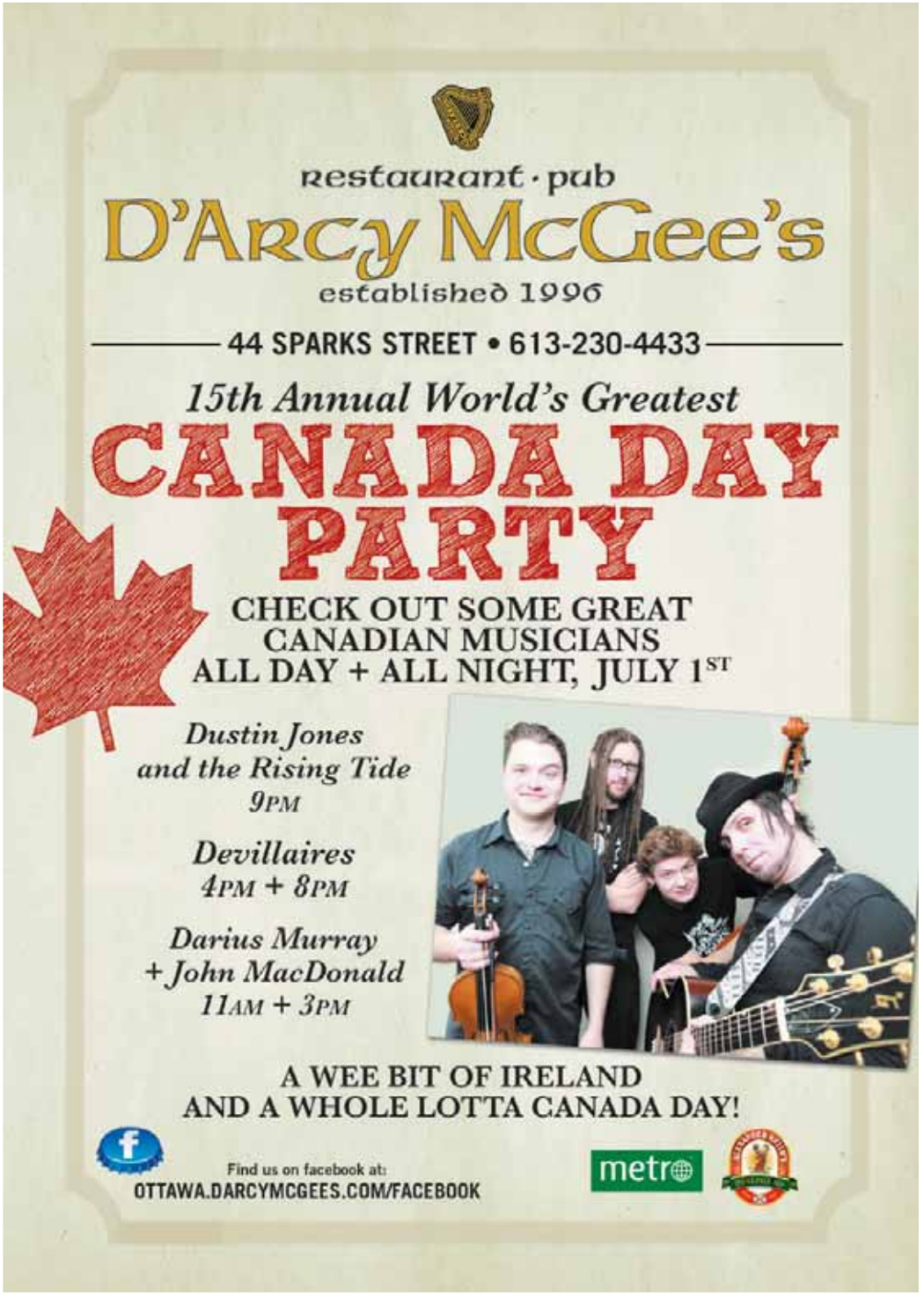
The wildfire was one of many burning across the West that have destroyed structures and prompted evacuations in Montana and Utah.

The White House said President Barack Obama will tour fire-stricken areas of Colorado on Friday and thank firefighters battling some of the worst fires to hit the region in decades. Colorado is also considered a key battleground state in the presidential election.

Officials said it was still too dangerous for investigators to begin tracking down the cause of the fire. The FBI said it was investigating whether the fires were deliberately set.

Shifting winds have frustrated firefighters trying to contain the 75-square-kilometre Waldo Canyon blaze in Colorado Springs.

Gov. John Hickenlooper said he expected that Obama might sign a disaster declaration that would allow for more federal aid. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mexican cartels use scare tactics to sway local vote

Fear. Candidates dealing with threats ahead of Sunday's state elections

Before the sun climbed above the hills around the central Mexican town of Emiliano Zapata, Saul Garcia and his family awoke to the sound of bullets piercing the front gate. A masked motorcyclist had opened fire on their brick home, leaving behind a poster signed by the La Familia drug cartel, warning the mayoral candidate to withdraw from the race or the gang would kill him, his wife and three children.

Garcia, a candidate for the local Social Democratic Party, didn't pull out. A state police officer now follows Garcia 24 hours a day while he courts voters on the steep and narrow streets of Emiliano Zapata, a suburb of Cuernavaca in the state of Morelos.

As Mexicans head to the ballot box Sunday, drug cartels are registering their votes with scare tactics and cold, hard cash to make sure whoever is elected doesn't interfere with their lucrative operations. The focus is usually on local politics, where officials and their police departments can cause problems, or smooth the way, for gangs moving drugs or shaking down businesses. It's also easier to influence a local race than an extensive, well-financed national election in the glare of media coverage.

Election violence this season has flared in Morelos and in other states where voters will choose six governors and hundreds of mayors and council members. While the federal government does not track the number of candidates threatened, there have been scattered reports of attacks or threats against politicians and campaign workers in several states.

Drug cartels have bribed officials for decades. The Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, ruled Mexico for 71 years, and in those days, cartels didn't need to pay attention to the electoral season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No party immune

Drug cartels aren't political, they're practical.

- Officials from all three major parties have been accused of drug gang ties, or have come under attack.
- Gangs support candidates they can buy off or a scare off.

Danish advertising has gone to the birds

Pigeons painted with fruit colours are shown at the Town Hall Square in Copenhagen on Thursday. Two artists, Julius von Bismarck and Julian Charriere, are using the pigeons as advertising for their exhibition, Life Clock, in the Danish capital. No pigeons were harmed during the process and the colour will come off when it rains.

LARS KRABBE/POLFOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canadians turn over new patriotic leaf

National pride swells. Canada is becoming a nation of flag wavers, new survey shows

The provocative results of a new survey challenge the long-held notion that Canadians are reluctant to be as outwardly patriotic as their brash American neighbours.

The Ipsos-Reid online survey of 1,100 people — conducted for the Historica-Dominion Institute in the days leading up to the Canada Day long weekend — suggest the Canadian sense of national pride is becoming an in-your-face swagger.

That is particularly true when it comes to the country's most potent national symbol: The maple leaf.

One in five of those surveyed said they would consider getting a tattoo of a Canadian flag somewhere on their body. They didn't say where.

But respondents from Saskatchewan and Manitoba seemed the most eager, as well as those under 55.

"We're talking about a country that traditionally was not very extroverted in a way that Americans or Brits are," said Jeremy Diamond, the institute's national director.

"We're breaking a mould here. We're breaking out of our conservative feelings that the flag should only be flown a certain way."

In fact, 74 per cent of those surveyed agreed that displaying the flag in any way possible is appropriate, including on their underwear (61 per cent) or on a garage (86 per cent). THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Canadian Maple Leaf flies on Parliament Hill. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

You show your Maple Leaf under where?

- The survey suggests that when it comes to the maple leaf, Canadians consider it their overwhelming choice for a national symbol, at 59 per cent — and they like seeing it everywhere, even on their underwear.
- The Mounties in red serge, industrious beavers and well-worn hockey jerseys — these stodgy icons each garnered only 10 per cent support when respondents were asked to pick a national symbol.
- The polar bear, Inukshuk and canoe were even further behind. Poutine wafted into the survey at two per cent, smothering Anne of Green Gables at one per cent.

Why our flag is a keeper

"It's recognized around the world. It's very distinctive. It's very simple. It's very clear, and it's got a long history."
Deborah Morrison, president of Canada's History Society, on the Maple Leaf

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Gun control. Federal NDP critics say government policies failed Toronto

The recent spate of shootings in Toronto shows the Harper government's stance on gun control has hurt the city, federal New Democrat critics said Thursday.

Cuts to border services and youth programs could be disastrous for community safety, members of parliament Olivia Chow and Andrew Cash said as they stood outside a neighbourhood YMCA.

"The Conservatives have been weak on gun control," said Cash.

"They failed the city of Toronto."

The government should reverse planned cuts to border services, provide stable funding for youth programs and come up with a strategy to deal with gun smuggling, the pair said.

But a spokeswoman for Federal Public Safety Minister Vic Toews disputed their claims, saying since the Conservatives took office, firearms-related homicides have decreased by 28 per cent during that time.

"These statistics show that our government's tough-on-crime approach is working," Julie Carmichael said in an email.

Toronto has been rocked by several fatal shootings in recent weeks, including one at the downtown Eaton Centre and another at an ice-cream parlour.

The shootings are a reminder of why youth-gang-prevention programs are needed, said Chow, adding that these programs are effective and should be expanded.

"Gangs don't quit after two or three years, but the Conservative government quit after two or three years," said Chow.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quote

"When (young people) are engaged in meaningful employment, it will detach them away from gang activities and give them a sense of hope"
MP Olivia Chow

Flash floods. Torrential rains cause major issues in Britain and Ireland

Flash floods triggered by heavy rain across Britain and Ireland have inundated homes, submerged roads and cut off both main railway lines linking England and Scotland.

Network Rail said sections of the Glasgow-to-London and the Edinburgh-to-London lines were blocked by landslides Thursday.

Torrential rain, following weeks of wet weather, has triggered floods across central and northern England, as well as in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Police said a man in his 60s was killed when he was swept away near Ludlow, central England.

In Belfast, Northern Ireland, floodwater swamped houses, made roads impassible and left 1,000 homes without power late Wednesday.

The Environment Agency imposed 12 flood warnings and 62 less-serious flood alerts across the country Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stranded cars are seen in flood water after torrential downpours caused flash floods in Jarrow, England, Thursday. SCOTT HEPPELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scapegoating

Iranian VP faces further backlash

International officials have condemned statements made by Iran's vice-president at a UN-sponsored drug conference in Tehran where he blamed Jews for the international drug trade.

Catherine Ashton, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs, on Thursday became the latest official to condemn the remarks by Iran's Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi.

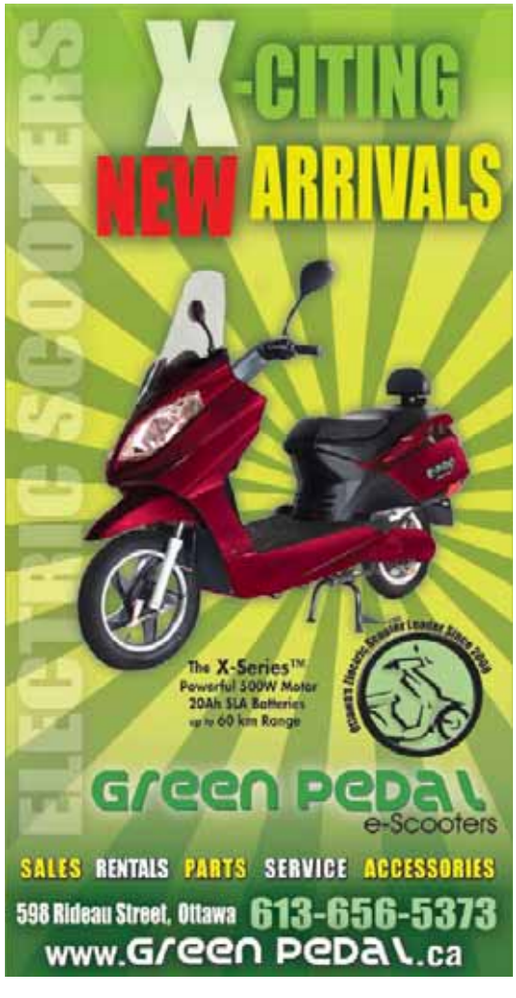
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lawsuit

Woman mauled by chimp seeking $150M in damages

Lawyers for a Connecticut woman severely disfigured in a chimpanzee attack have filed papers accusing state officials of failing to seize the animal before the mauling despite a staff member's warning that it was dangerous. They are seeking $150 million in damages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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The Supreme Court of Canada will hear a Crown appeal in a case where a Nova Scotia appeal court threw out convictions on 17 charges of gross indecency and indecent assault involving six boys. The provincial court of appeal quashed the conviction against Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh, pictured at right, last year. ANDREW VAUGHAN/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

MacIntosh case heading back to Supreme Court

Appeal. Nova Scotia to counter quashing of former businessman's 17 counts of indecent assault and gross indecency by lower court

The Supreme Court of Canada will hear an appeal of a lower court's decision to throw out 17 sex offence convictions against a Nova Scotia man involving boys in the 1970s.

The Nova Scotia Court of Appeal overturned convictions on eight counts of indecent assault and nine counts of gross indecency against Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh last year, ruling that a 14-year delay between the original allegations and the trial was too long.

In a brief filed with Canada's top court in February, the Crown argued the Court of Appeal erred in its decision because it didn't give enough weight to the public interest in having a trial despite the passage of time.

The brief argued the court failed to "consider society's heightened interest in a trial on the merits for serious allegations of sexual violence against children and young persons."

Prosecutors also contended that the Nova Scotia decision had created legal confusion because the Appeal Court focused exclusively on the actions of the state in its efforts to return the accused from India and characterized MacIntosh's decision to remain out of the country as "passive inaction."

"We put forward ... various cases from other provinces that we were of the opinion had treated similar situations rather differently," said Jennifer MacLellan, the senior Crown attorney handling the case.

The case isn't expected to be heard before 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Case facts

- **Dates.** The allegations against MacIntosh, a former Cape Breton businessman, date back to the 1970s but only surfaced in 1995 when he was working in India.
- **Extradition.** An extradition request was not made until 2006 and MacIntosh was returned to Canada in 2007. He faced two trials on the charges.
- **Decisions.** Jennifer MacLellan, the senior Crown attorney handling the case, said the Supreme Court could either reinstate the convictions, order a new trial or uphold the appeal court decision.

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Google co-founder Sergey Brin
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Web wars

Google releases Chrome broswer for iPhone, iPad

Google's Chrome browser can now be used to surf the Internet on the iPhone and iPad.

The Chrome application released Thursday is the latest volley in the escalating rivalry between Google and Apple, the maker of the popular mobile devices.

Google's attempt to supplant Apple's own Safari browser comes a day after it unveiled its plans to sell a low-priced tablet computer to compete against the iPad and Amazon's Kindle Fire.

The arrival of Chrome on Apple's mobile operating system comes a month after Yahoo released a browser called Axis for the iPhone and iPad.

Unlike Axis, however, Chrome already has emerged as one of the most popular alternatives to Microsoft's Internet Explorer on traditional computers.

Google revealed Thursday that Chrome now has 310 million active users, up from 160 million a year ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bad trade

JPMorgan Chase shares fall on report of $9B loss

JPMorgan Chase stock declined more than two per cent on Thursday, making it one of the worst-performing banks, after a published report said its loss on a bad trade could be far higher than the bank first estimated.

The New York Times, citing an internal report at the bank, reported that the loss could reach $9 billion US.

JPMorgan Chase stock closed down 90 cents, or 2.4 per cent, at $35.88. Financial stocks as a group lost 0.2 per cent. JPMorgan traded at about $41 before the loss was disclosed and has closed as low as $31 in the weeks since. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Research in Motion still stumbling

First-quarter results. Troubled tech firm's shares plunge after news of deep job cuts and postponed launch of the Blackberry 10

Research In Motion is delaying the launch of its much-anticipated BlackBerry 10 handset until next year and cutting 5,000 jobs as it restructures operations, the troubled smartphone company said Thursday.

The launch of BlackBerry 10, seen as key to the recovery of the company, had been expected later this year and will now miss the important holiday shopping season.

"This was a challenging quarter for the company on many fronts and I'm not satisfied with the financial performance we are reporting," chief executive Thorsten Heins said on a conference call.

Heins said the company's top priority is the launch of the first BlackBerry 10 device, which it has pushed to the first quarter of 2013.

The company also plans to simplify its operations, which includes cutting back on the number of different BlackBerry devices on the market, as well as reducing its "layers of management" and outsourcing more of its non-core functions.

Heins told investors on a conference call that many of the wireless carriers actually prefer that the company launch its new devices in the first quarter of next year because faster networks will be in place then.

RIM shares plunged 16 per cent in after-hours trading on the Nasdaq, losing $1.50 to $7.63 US. Shares closed up two cents at $9.46 on the Toronto Stock Exchange in regular-hours trading Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I am not satisfied with these results and continue to work ... to implement meaningful changes to address the challenges."
RIM CEO Thorsten Heins

WestJet CEO gets hands-on with the Q400

WestJet Airlines president and CEO Gregg Saretsky looks at a tongue-in-cheek "Sold" sign on Bombardier Aerospace's Q400 aircraft in Calgary on Thursday. WestJet will begin receiving the Q400 for their new regional airline in 2013. WestJet has signed a conditional order for 20 Q400 NextGen turboprops. The new airline is anticipated to serve regional airports that are currently considered underserved.

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Company fined for illegal export

Pratt & Whitney Canada is among the United Technologies companies that will pay up to about $75 million US in penalties after pleading guilty Thursday to violating U.S. law for illegally exporting military software to China.

The Quebec-based subsidiary pleaded guilty to three counts of violating the Arms Export Control Act and making false statements in connection with the export of software used in the development of China's first modern military attack helicopter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 96.82¢ (-0.69¢)

Natural gas: $2,722 US (-7.6¢)
Dow Jones: 12,602.26 (-24.75)

TSX 11,424.70 (+13.76)

OIL $77.69 US (-$2.52)

GOLD $1,550.40 (-$28.00)

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TOP 9 THINGS THAT NEED TO BE KNOWN IMMEDIATELY

THE LIST
Paul Sullivan
Metro

On Wednesday it was the Canada Day List, highlighting 10 great things about Canada. Today it's the Metro List, our authoritative tally of the most noteworthy events of the week.

1 **You want a list? I'll give you a list.** Because we're so big on lists around here, we tip our hats in the general direction of the Maclean's Book of Lists, which, even though it's from the competition, is the Mother of All Lists, including 12 things you didn't know were invented by Canadians, the top-10 crying hockey players, eight Canadian sitcoms that sucked and seven facts about winning the lottery. Plus it hits the stands on Canada Day (see above).

2 **Obamacare.** The president's medical-coverage scheme survives the U.S. Supreme Court. Now it's the law that every American must have health coverage. It's kind of like being a Canadian. Too bad Fox and CNN, in the race to be first, got it dead wrong, reporting that SCOTUS struck the law down and then correcting themselves. Red faces all around.

3 **Speaking of Obama.** A poll says 65 per cent of Americans think he'll do better than Mitt Romney if there's an alien invasion. Either they believe he was born in Kenya, and is therefore an alien himself, or they think Romney would declare all the aliens illegal and deport them back to Alpha Centauri.

4 **He's not crying.** Sidney Crosby signs a deal to make $104 million US to play hockey for the Pittsburgh Penguins for the next 12 years. Gordie Howe, a 23-time NHL all-star, made $100,000 in his highest-paid season. In his 103-point best year, he was the third-highest paid guy on the team, making $45,000.

5 **Tennis, anyone?** Wimbledon considers introducing a court-side grunt-o-meter to measure the decibel count on grunts from female tennis players. Maria Sharapova can hit decibels — 101 — greater than a jackhammer and a motorcycle.

6 **The Algo Centre Mall.** The commercial heart of Elliot Lake, Ont., collapses. Tragedy strikes anyone, any day, but can't we make sure that malls don't collapse? Like, build it right to begin with.

7 **Naked truth.** The Canadian national women's rugby team bares all for a fundraising calendar. The Canadian national men's rugby team promises not to publish a naked calendar if we give them money.

8 **Bieber Watch.** Justin Bieber enjoys the year's biggest debut as his latest album, Believe, sold 374,000 copies in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan. I wonder who'll buy lunch at the Overpaid Café: Justin or Sidney? Sigh.

9 **Happy Canada Day.** Bonne Fête du Canada. Păomă jiānádà guóqìng rì.

Follow @TheMetroList on Twitter

New cable car gets a blessing

GETTY IMAGES

Sky opens in London

New cable car to brighten the city

It's a heavenly sign of good times to come, or at least that's what London's ruling officials want. The U.K. capital opened its first cable-car service on Thursday, a stunning ride across the River Thames that will cater to tourists visiting the nearby Olympic Park. METRO

Mayor's view

"It's beautiful, worth every penny and a stunning piece of engineering"

London Mayor Boris Johnson

Fly flags: Unionized bus workers protest in front of cable cars. GETTY IMAGES

Cable car in numbers

2,500

Transport for London says the cars will carry up to 2,500 people per hour in each direction — the equivalent to 30 buses.

Brittany Waters, a winger with Canada's national women's rugby team, strikes a pose for a 2013 calendar the team is selling as a fundraising tool on the road the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.
DARRYL HUMPHREY

Metropolitan Panel

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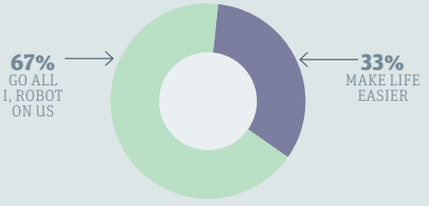

Twitter

@michaelblackie: #Canadaday #NAC #Ottawa 1000 Foot long dogs just arrived ! Come to the NAC on Canada day and get yours ! http://t.co/1fwGNXGB

@Millsy14: I'm not afraid to admit that this weekend scares me a little bit #CanadaDay

@SalaSanMarcoHal: #Italy fans on the street #euro-cup #Ottawa http://t.co/xtJy-voEM

@nicolerichard_: #wow almost 2 weeks until @TygaVerified in #ottawa !!! Can't wait! #soexcited!!!!!

@Sandra1053Kiss: Sooo happy I don't have to pack any lunches for the next 9 weeks. It's the little things..... #summer2012 #schoolsout #ottawa

metro

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MICHELLE **WILLIAMS** SETH **ROGEN** LUKE **KIRBY** AND SARAH **SILVERMAN**

"MICHELLE WILLIAMS AND SETH ROGEN BOTH HIT CAREER HIGHS."

- Joshua Rothkopf, TIME OUT NEW YORK

"A THRILLING AND UNPREDICTABLE RIDE, AND A HEARTBREAKING LOVE STORY."

- Andrew O'Hehir, SALON

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COMING SOON! Woody Allen's *TO ROME WITH LOVE*, In Theatres JULY 13th

In Ted, Mark Wahlberg's girlfriend (Mila Kunis) gives him an ultimatum — choose between her, or his beloved talking teddy bear. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Over-bearing humour?

Ted. Without network censors on his case, Seth MacFarlane lets the politically incorrect jokes fly in new comedy

Richard: The novelty of watching a stuffed bear spout words that would make a biker blush fades soon after the opening credits. After that the movie relies on Seth MacFarlane's trademarked blend of awkward, inappropriate humour to get laughs, and you know what? It works. I didn't feel good about laughing at some of the gags, but I laughed. You?

Mark: Yes, I laughed. There are some very good jokes in the movie, although the film isn't as innovative as it wants us to believe. It's very similar to movies like You, Me, and Dupree which asks the main character to choose between his romantic interest and boorish but lovable best friend. In this case the best friend is a teddy bear, but the dynamic is the same. If you've ever loved one of those dirty ventriloquist acts this movie is surely for you. But the bottom line is: I laughed.

Synopsis

When John Bennett (Mark Walhberg) was a small, lonely child, he wished for just one thing — a best friend. His wish came true, and Ted (voice of Seth MacFarlane), his trusty teddy bear, came to life. The pair became "Thunder Buddies" for life, which causes problems when John grows up and moves in with his girlfriend Lori (Mila Kunis). After four years of living with John and the pot-smoking, foul-mouthed Ted, she makes an ultimatum: it's either her or the stuffed, stoned bear.

- Richard: ●●●○○
- Mark: ●●●○○

RC: Fans of Family Guy already know what to expect from the big screen directorial debut of Seth MacFarlane. As the writer and the voice behind Peter Griffin on that show he has redefined the limits of what is acceptable on prime-time TV. Now, imagine that without a network censor looking over his shoulder. It's not the concept that pushes the envelope it's the material. It's filled with the kind of jokes you tell around the water cooler the next day, but only in a whisper.

MB: And three cheers to MacFarlane for it! Most movie comedies confuse political incorrectness with cheap gross-out humour but MacFarlane is closer in tone to the South Park creators — there isn't an ethnic or special needs group left unscathed. Animators have known for a long time that when you put these jokes in the mouths of non-humans, it takes away enough of the sting to let them slide. Anything in particular make you laugh?

RC: Like any five-year-old I always giggle at flatulence jokes. I'm not proud of it, but there you have it. They make me laugh and Ted has a restaurant scene involving gassiness and some outraged businessmen that is to passing-gas-scenes what the Odessa Steps sequence is to Battleship Potemkin.

MB: You just made Eisenstein roll over in his grave. I loved the wisecracks and most of the flashback scenes. But the over-the-top motel room fight between man and teddy bear will stay with me forever.

2 SCENE

Scene in brief

Snoop detained in Norway?

Norwegian media are reporting that Snoop Dogg was briefly detained in Norway after entering the country with marijuana and a large amount of cash. Customs officials decline to confirm the report, saying only that an American artist entered Norway with a small amount of marijuana. Norwegian law prevents law enforcement officials from naming suspects. A customs officer who spoke on condition of anonymity said Thursday that the artist was also carrying more cash than is legally allowed and was subsequently fined $8,600 for the violations. Snoop Dogg was scheduled to perform Thursday at a musical festival in the town of Kristiansand.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Playing male strippers in Magic Mike illuminated female fantasy for cast of Hollywood hunks

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Richards channels her inner Tyler Perry

Madea's Witness Protection. Actress talks about the most awkward scene she was handed in the latest installment of the Madea franchise

AARTI VIRANI
Metro World News in New York

Madea's Witness Protection Program opens today. HANDOUT

As she munches on Peanut M&Ms, exchanges a quick word with her publicist and taps out a lightning-fast text message — "I'm so sorry, just making arrangements with the kids," she blurts — Denise Richards is every bit the multi-tasking mom. But in a matter of hours, she'll dial up the glamour, working the red carpet for the premiere of Madea's Witness Protection, the seventh installment in Tyler Perry's ever-expanding franchise.

Out Friday, the raucous comedy is centred on George Needleman (Eugene Levy), an honest but absent-minded Wall Street CFO, who learns his firm is operating a mob-backed Ponzi scheme. When Brian, a federal prosecutor from Atlanta (Perry) places George and his family in the safest hideaway he can think of — his Aunt Madea's down South — what unfolds is a whacky collision of cultures, punctuated with brazen one-liners, courtesy of Perry's fearless, larger-than-life matriarch.

"I haven't seen (the film) yet," confesses Richards, 41, who plays George's aggravated second wife, Kate. "My girls won't be embarrassed? Like, 'mom, you're acting really weird?,'" she asks with a self-conscious giggle. She's referring to an especially outrageous scene where Kate channels Madea's thunderous, trademark holler in a last-ditch effort to discipline her spoiled stepdaughter (Danielle Campbell). "Thank god they sprung that scene on me on set, otherwise I would've gotten myself worked up," she admits. "It was intimidating. I was imitating Tyler Perry imitating Madea."

Richards sings sweet praises for Perry, marveling at his seamless ability to write, direct and simultaneously play three characters (in addition to Brian and Madea, Perry also portrays Uncle Joe, Madea's eccentric, live-in brother). "He's so sexy, he's got this great presence and powerful voice," Richards gushes, describing Perry's charismatic, off-screen persona. "And to go from that to Madea and Joe telling fart jokes…I'm like, how does that come out of you?"

Equally impressive was the director's ability to wrap up shooting a week ahead of schedule — practically unheard of in Hollywood. "We finished early!" Richards exclaimed. "(Perry) was editing in his head. To have that foresight is incredible."

Amicable exes?

Richards guest stars on ex-husband Charlie Sheen's highly-anticipated comeback sitcom, Anger Management, which made its debut this week. "If it gets picked up, I'll be a recurring character," she says enthusiastically. "I think people will be surprised to see Charlie playing a different character, it's not what they're expecting."

Whirlwind cameo.
Tom Arnold agrees to role out of curiosity

Tom Arnold GETTY IMAGES

For comedy stalwart Tom Arnold, all it took was a few, focused hours to shoot a pivotal cameo in Tyler Perry's ensemble comedy, Madea's Witness Protection.

"I came to Atlanta on a Saturday night and left the following day," explained the 53-year-old actor, recalling his whirlwind trip. "I did it to see what Tyler was like."

Fortunately, Perry exceeded his expectations, whether he was directing the cast in his outrageous Madea costume, urging them to ad-lib or just "being a cheerleader," as Arnold describes.

"I didn't know Tyler and I wanted to see if he was up for improvising, and he was more than up for it," he added. "There are lines that I made up and saw in my finished scene. Some writers are like, 'I wrote every word, I'm Bill Shakespeare,' but with Tyler, the best joke wins."

In the film, Arnold plays Walter, the seedy boss to Wall Street CFO, George Needleman (Eugene Levy), and chief schemer behind their firm's mob-backed Ponzi scheme — foul play that eventually forces the Needlemans to seek refuge with Aunt Madea (Tyler Perry). "I play a younger, more handsome, Bernie Madoff-type guy," says Arnold, exuding his signature brand of kooky, tongue-in-cheek humour.

No stranger to stories about fitting in — as the host of CMT's highly successful reality show, My Big Redneck Vacation, the star is well acquainted with the notion of culture-shock — Arnold is an enthusiastic supporter of this type of storytelling.

"At least 50 per cent of movies are fish-out-of-water tales," he declares. "The key is to find different pools for the fish to jump in and if it's done right, people like it."

These days, Arnold's balancing a plate that's practically overflowing, complete with stand-up gigs, script-writing sessions and the occasional movie role. Later this summer, he'll appear in the Kristen Bell-Bradley Cooper Hit and Run. "It also has a bit of a witness protection twist to it," he shares, amused at the parallels between an outlandish comedy and a slick action-romance.

Despite decades of being steeped in Hollywood (and scoring a Golden Globe and Peabody along the way), Arnold's still setting goals, turning to writing on especially tough days. "You have to prove yourself in this business," he admits. "And apparently I have to do it for 30 years." AARTI VIRANI, MWN

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Drama

Take this Waltz

Director. Sarah Polley

Stars. Michelle Williams, Seth Rogen, Luke Kirby

●●●○○

Actor-turned-filmmaker Sarah Polley's follow-up to Away From Her is as poignant as her Oscar-nominated debut. Delving into themes of emotional turmoil, the drama explores a married woman (Michelle Williams) and her repressed desire to seek fulfillment in a bohemian artist. While the premise reeks of convenience (they meet in Halifax only to discover they're neighbours!), Polley's script carries a soft intensity while the cast (particularly Williams) make the film worth waltzing to the multiplex for.

STEVE GOW

Drama

People Like Us

Director. Alex Kurtzman

Stars. Chris Pine, Elizabeth Banks, Olivia Wilde

●●○○○

Sam (Pine) is a selfish salesman who only cares about money. So when his dad passes away and leaves him $150,000, Sam is over the moon — until he finds out the fortune is for a sister he never knew he had. Unsure if he'll give up the money, Sam develops a friendship with his sister, Frankie (Banks), but doesn't reveal their true relationship. Banks is delightful as a fiery single mom, but the film is too long and there are a couple of unnecessary characters that distract from what could have been a decent drama.

REGAN REID

Drama

Magic Mike

Director. Steven Soderbergh

Stars. Channing Tatum, Matthew McConaughey

●●●○○

It would be challenging to make a truly serious movie about male strippers and luckily, director Steven Soderbergh doesn't. A semi-autobiographical story about its chiseled star Channing Tatum, Magic Mike explores the struggle of an "entrepreneur" whose real dream isn't to dance on top of furniture but to build it. It loses strength when the plot turns transparent but the cast (particularly Matthew McConaughey) really has their mojo working.

STEVE GOW

Comedy

We Have a Pope

Director. Nanni Moretti

Stars. Nanni Moretti, Michel Piccoli

●●●○○

Italian auteur (and Cannes Film Fest jury president) Nanni Moretti's intriguing comedy We Have a Pope explores the notion of a pontiff going rogue with an anxiety attack after gaining his newly appointed status. While the rambling story may meander at times, French acting legend Michel Piccoli gives the protagonist a heavenly presence definitely worth checking out.

STEVE GOW

Quoted

"I recall very, like, method-y, whispering conversations between Alex and Michelle before the first take, and then she slapped the (crap) out of me...

"There's something to be said for it, because there really is no way to duplicate the shock of that."

Chris Pine on being slapped by Michelle Pfeiffer in one of the first scenes of the film People Like Us, directed by Alex Kurtzman.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Andrew Garfield stars in The Amazing Spider-Man, which hits theatres next Tuesday. HANDOUT

Andrew Garfield spins a nervous web

The Amazing Spider-Man. Actor had plenty of anxiety over doing justice to one of his favourite comic book characters

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News in New York

Now that The Amazing Spider-Man is finally about to hit theatres, it seems as though star Andrew Garfield will at last be able to get a full eight hours of sleep.

"I've been nervous for the last two years, it seems," he explains. "Every day, there's been something that's made me have to suppress shaking."

Clearly the British actor felt some pressure after taking up the mantel of Spidey that recently was worn by Tobey Maguire in the three installments that ran from 2002-2007. But it was Garfield's personal connection to Marvel's signature comic book character that got him all tied up in knots, so to speak, for the reboot.

"We all have that one fictional character, at least, that we all care about so much," he says. "If ever that opportunity came for any of us to play it, to serve it, do it justice, when that moment comes, you're like, 'I'm not allowed to sleep. I'm not allowed to think about anything else! I need to dedicate everything to this person that's given me so much in my life that I want to give all of myself to it.'"

Garfield's not the kind of actor who comes off as disingenuous — unless of course, it's in the script. But his naturally quiet, smart, somewhat befuddled nature comes across in his iteration of Spider-man, who's more fidgety and anxious than the Spideys before him. That aspect of the masked hero's DNA was what Garfield held on to.

"That was how I always felt growing up — I felt like an underdog. I was a skinny kid. I always thought I should have been bigger for some reason, because society tells you that," he says. "I played rugby, and I was good at it but I got concussed all the time because I was a weakling. So that was something that I identified with for Peter, because he felt stronger on the inside than he did on the outside ... and there's nothing better than seeing a skinny guy beat the crap out of big guys."

A weakling, he might have been at one time, but Garfield will be poised for superstardom should this reboot of Spider-Man franchise take off.

Staying grounded

Andrew Garfield has made a vow that he'll audition for every role he's interested in — an unconventional practice for well-established actors. "I've had to work for everything that I've been a part of and this is what's satisfying about it, because you know that they really looked at everyone, and you are the right person for that particular story and that particular moment."

Emma Stone. Actress has fun falling in love all over again — for the first time

Emma Stone has quickly become one of the most in-demand actresses in Hollywood. Since her breakout role in Superbad in 2007, she's not only racked up a number of lead roles, such as in The Help and Easy A, but she's also been nominated for a slew of awards for her work. Today, she sits atop a major comic book franchise with Andrew Garfield in the reboot of The Amazing Spider-Man. But she's no role model, folks.

"I don't in any way shape, or form think that I'm any type of a role model or anything like that," she says emphatically. "But I think for whatever reason when you're put into a public place, you have to figure out what that purpose is in your life."

Stone remains focused on her career, expressly stating that she won't talk politics. However, a new contract she's signed with Revlon does give her the opportunity to say something about beauty, even if she seems quite unaware of her own appeal.

"I thought why in the world would I be approached for a beauty campaign, because I had always been the funny girl. That's not to put myself down; that was always the way that my brain worked," she says. "Then I thought about Diane Keaton for L'Oreal and Ellen DeGeneres for Cover Girl, and how sometimes real beauty gets to be celebrated. If I have an opportunity to possibly reach young girls to make them feel like what they are is enough … then that's a game changer."

Stone and Garfield themselves may be re-writing the rules when it comes to the Spider-Man franchise, which audiences had last seen in 2007 with the third installment, starring Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst, as Mary Jane Watson. In this iteration, helmed by 500 Days of Summer director Marc Webb, Stone plays Peter Parker's first love, Gwen Stacy. With Garfield and Stone romantically involved off-screen, the intense connection they have in front of the camera is that much more believable, as the actress herself hints.

"This kind of swept me off of my feet because she is truly in love with him," Stone says of her and Garfield's characters. "I wanted to experience that feeling of first love before you know what it's like to get your heart completely shattered — that life or death love. It's a matter of un-learning, and becoming 17 again, and letting yourself be 17 in this moment. It's fun, you guys should try it; it's pretty cool to feel that way again."

HEIDI PATALANO, MWN

Emma Stone plays Peter Parker's first love, Gwen Stacy. HANDOUT

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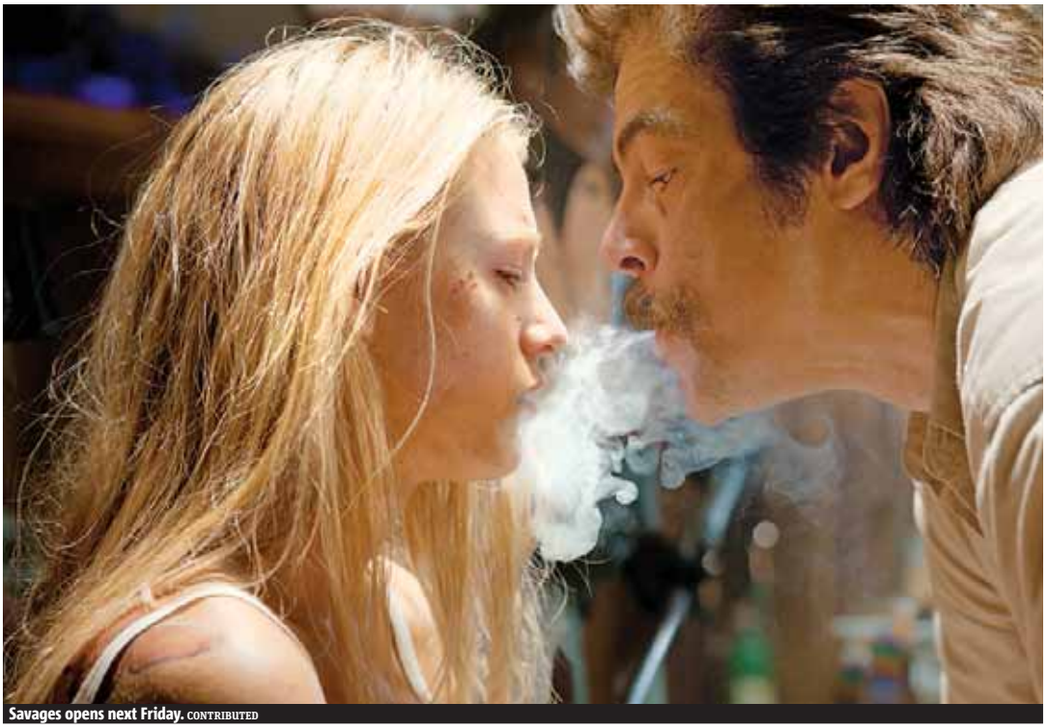
Oliver Stone takes issue with wars — even when they are wars on drugs

Savages. Filmmaker's latest project takes a fictional look at Mexican drug cartels moving into the U.S.

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood



Savages opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Oliver Stone is no stranger to controversial topics — or controversial films. In his latest, Savages, he takes on the ongoing, bloody Mexican drug war, with kidnapping and violence erupting when a cartel attempts a hostile takeover of two Stateside growers (Aaron Johnson and Taylor Kitsch) and the girlfriend they share (Blake Lively).

How do you go about approaching such a real, current and deadly topic with a fictional film?
Well, we're based on a book, so this is not a Traffic-like approach docudrama about the situation. We really took on a hypothetical fiction. This movie was about a situation that could happen but hasn't happened, which is that a cartel would move in on some niche, boutique growers, independent growers who grow high-grade product here in the United States.

What are your own feelings about the drug war?
Well, you'd have to go back to 1969. Why do you have to declare a war on drugs? I didn't understand it, and I don't know why America loves the concept of war — war in Vietnam, war in Iraq, war in Afghanistan. It's just endless wars. By fighting a war you put a huge amount of money in, the budgets go up and a lot of corruption ensues. That's the history of war. Not only that but America has screwed itself by creating a prison system that's out of control and a Drug Enforcement Agency that is well beyond insane in terms of creating scenarios. And you have also hurt Mexico deeply because you created corruption on a huge, vast scale in Mexico as well as driving up the price of herbs like marijuana. It could cost a lot less.

What about the prospect of marijuana legalization in the States?
I don't see much progress recently, with the Obama administration going against it. The California state laws are far more liberal and hopefully will prevail in the progressive movement, but with an election? Forget it. Stupidity rules. It's the lowest common denominator. At the very least, decriminalization. How about that? Let's empty the prison population, which is enormous in this country.

Of course, marijuana isn't the only drug fueling this situation.
How about differentiating marijuana from cocaine? Let's start with scientific analyses about marijuana and its true effect. That would be a very sane place to start this argument. Cocaine is another version of another kind of thing, and I do think it should be medicalized as well because there's huge amounts of money to be made otherwise. So if it could be taxed and medicalized and used sanely, it would make sense.

On violence

Stone lets his judgment be his guide

Oliver Stone was asked about how far he would go when depicting this type of violence on-screen and he responded that the R rating wouldn't let him go too far. "The book was pretty explicit. We couldn't exactly do that book because we wouldn't have gotten a rating. So I'm guided by my own sense of judgment and hopefully taste as to what an audience can stand. It's certainly not as realistic and violent as it really is, that's for sure. I mean, you could throw somebody in a barrel of acid, as a cartel has done, and watch them scream and yell as they die."

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Habemus Papam (PG) Fri 6:55 Sat 9:15 Mon 1:45-6:30 Tue 6:50 Wed 9:20 Thu 4:35
Monsieur Lazhar (PG) Mon 8:45 Tue-Wed 4:45 No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun
Pina (G) Fri 4:45 Story of Film: An Odyssey Part 2 of 8 (STC) Sat 1:45 Story of Film: An Odyssey Part 3 of 8 (STC) Thu 9:20
Take This Waltz (14A) Fri 9:10 Sat 4:15-6:45 Mon 3:59 Tue 9:05 Wed-Thu 6:50

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Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Mon 8:10-10:50 Tue 12:20-2:50-5:25-8:10-10:50 Wed 12:20-2:50-10:50 Thu 12:20-2:50-5:25-8:10-10:50
Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:50-5:25-8:10-10:50 Mon 12:20-2:50-5:25
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Mon 8:45 Tue-Thu 12:15-3:25-6:35-9:45
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Mon 9:30 Tue-Thu 12:45-3:55-7:05-10:15 Mon 8-11:05 Tue-Thu 1:15-4:25-7:35-10:45
Brave (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:30-7-9:30
Brave 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (PG) Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Thu 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:30
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:30 Mon 12:50-3:15-5:30-8:05-10:30 Tue-Wed 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:30
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Sun 1-7:20 Mon 1-4:05
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:15-10:45 Sat 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:10-10:45 Sun 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:15-10:45 Mon 12:30-3:05 People Like Us (14A) Fri-Wed 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Thu 5-7:45-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Prometheus (14A) Fri-Thu 1:25 Mon 7:15-10:10 Tue-Thu 4:10-7:15-10:10
Prometheus 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 4:10-7:15-10:10 Mon 4:10
Rock of Ages (PG) Fri-Sun 4:20-10:25
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Wed 1:55-4:50-7:50-10:50
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:20-10:55 That's My Boy (18A) Fri-Sun 12-2:40-5:25-8:10-10:55 Mon 12-2:40-5:25

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Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Fri-Tue 3:20 Wed 3:20-6:40-9:40 Thu 3:20
Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D (14A) Fri-Tue 12:25-6:40-9:40 Wed 12:25 Thu 12:25-6:40
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Tue-Thu 3:30 The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Tue-Thu 12:20-6:20-9:30
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:30-6:15-9
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (PG) Thu 12:50-3:45-6:30-9:20 Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:35-6:35-9:35
Moonrise Kingdom (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7-9:30 People Like Us (14A) Fri-Tue 12:45-3:25-6:50-9:35 Wed 12:45-3:25 Thu 12:45-3:25-6:50-9:35 Prometheus (14A) Fri-Mon 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:20 Thu 9:20
Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (14A) Fri-Wed 1-3:45-6:50-9:10

Mayfair Theatre
1074 Bank St.

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Mon 10 Tue-Thu 7 Prometheus (14A) Fri-Sat 6:30-9 Sun-Mon 7

Mayfair Theatre Orleans
250 Centrum Blvd.

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG) Fri-Sat 1:15-6 Sun 6 Mon-Thu 1:15-6
The Dictator (14A) Fri-Thu 9:15
The Hunger Games (14A) Fri-Thu 3:30
The Intouchables (14A) Fri-Thu 3:45-8:30
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Sat 1-6:30 Sun 6:30 Mon-Thu 1-6:30
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (PG) Fri-Sat 1:30 Mon-Thu 1:30 The Room (STC) Sat 11:15 Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (14A) Fri-Thu 7
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Thu 3:15-8:45

Rainbow Cinemas
St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd.

Battleship (PG) Fri-Thu 10-6:30-9:05
Dark Shadows (14A) Fri-Thu 6:50-9:10
The Dictator (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-4:45-9
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:10-2:15-4:40 The Hunger Games (14A) Fri-Thu 10:30-1:20-4:20-7:30
Hysteria (PG) Fri-Thu 7-9:20
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Thu 10:20-12:20-2:35-4:50 The Pirates! Band of Misfits (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:25-4:30
What to Expect When You're Expecting (14A) Fri-Thu 10:05-2:20-6:40

Rideau Centre Cinemas
50 Rideau St.

The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Mon 8 Tue-Thu 12:30-7-9:10 Tue-Thu 3:45
Brave (PG) Fri-Sat 12:45-6:45-9:15 Sun 12:45-6:15 Mon 12:45-6:45-9:15 Tue-Thu 12:45-6:45-10:10 Fri-Mon 3:45 Tue-Thu 3:30 Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Sat 12:30-6:30-9 Sun 12:30-6:30 Mon 1 Fri-Sun 3:30 Mon 4
Ted (14A) Fri-Sat 1-4-7-9:30 Sun 12:15-3:15-6 Mon 12:30-3:30-6:30-9 Tue-Thu 1-4-6:30-9:40

South Keys
2214 Bank St.

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Mon 7:40 Tue-Thu 11:50-2:20-4:55-7:40
Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:20-4:55-7:40-10:20 Mon 11:50-2:20-4:55
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Mon 9-10 Tue-Thu 11:45-12:20-2:45-3:30-5:55-6:35-9-9:40
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Mon 8-11:05 Tue-Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
Brave (PG) Fri-Thu 11:35-2:05-4:30-7-9:45
Brave 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-5:05-7:35-9:55
Hook (STC) Sat 11
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (PG) Thu 12:05-2:30-4:50-7:10-9:50
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Wed 12 Thu 12-2:15-4:40-7:05-9:30
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Wed 2:15-4:40-7:05-9:30
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Thu 11:40-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-6:40 Mon 12:30
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri 12:05-2:40-5:05-7:50-10:15 Sat 2:40-5:05-7:50-10:15 Sun 12:05-2:40-5:05-7:50-10:15 Mon 12:05-2:40-5:05 People Like Us (14A) Fri-Thu 11:30-2-4:35-7:15-10:05
Prometheus (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10-10 Mon 1-4-6:50-10:20 Tue-Thu 10:20
Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (14A) Fri-Wed 12:10-2:30-5-7:20-9:50
Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:55-9:35 Mon 12:45-3:45-7:35-10:25 Tue-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:55-9:35
Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 11:55-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:15 That's My Boy (18A) Fri-Sun 3:50-9:40 Mon 3:50

Gatineau

Cinéma des Galeries d'Aylmer
400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne

The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (G) Mon 8 Tue-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:50-9:40
Brave (STC) Fri-Thu 3:10
Brave 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 1-7-9:10
Madagascar 3 - Bons baisers d'Europe (G) Fri-Mon 3 Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-6:50-9 Mon 12:50 Magic Mike (13+) Fri 9:30 Sat-Thu 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Fri 1:10-3:30-7:10
Rock of Ages (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:20

Ciné-starz
1100 boul. Maloney Ouest

Le 2e voyage l'île mystérieuse (G) Fri-Thu 12 Bataille Navale (G) Fri-Thu 4:45-8:45
Comment prévoir l'imprévisible (G) Fri-Thu 1:40-6:45 Dr. Seuss Le Lorax (G) Fri-Thu 12-1:35-3:10-6
Hunger Games: Le Film (G) Fri-Thu 3:50-8:15 Intouchables (G) Fri-Thu 4:45-8:45
L'Ère du Rock (G) Fri-Thu 3:40-7:35-9:45
Miroir, Miroir (G) Fri-Thu 12-1:55-6:20
Les Pirates Bande de Nuls (G) Fri-Thu 12-1:35-3:10-7:05

Gatineau 9
120 boul. de l'Hôpital

Abraham Lincoln: chasseur de vampires 3D (13+) Fri-Tue 12:10-2:45-6:50-9 Wed 9 Thu 12:10-2:45-6:50-9
Blanche-Neige et le chasseur (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:25-6:20-9:05 Mon 12:50-3:25
Cloclo (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:30-8
L'extraordinaire Spider-Man (G) Mon 8 Tue-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:20-9:10
L'extraordinaire Spider-Man 3D (G) Mon 8 Tue-Thu 12:45-3:50-7-9:50
Madagascar 3 - Bons baisers d'Europe (G) Fri-Thu 3 Madagascar 3 - Bons baisers d'Europe 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-6:40-8:45
Magic Mike (13+) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:45-7:15-9:45 Marvel Les Avengers: Le film 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:30-9:25 Mon 12:40-3:30
Rebelle 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 1-3:20-7-9:15
Ted (13+) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:15-7:10-9:40
Ça c'est mon gars (STC) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:05-7:05-9:35

StarCité Hull
115 boul. du Plateau

Abraham Lincoln: chasseur de vampires (13+) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05
Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (13+) Mon 8:10-10:50 Tue-Thu 12:20-2:50-5:25-8:10-10:50 Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D (13+) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:50-5:25-8:10-10:50 Mon 12:20-2:50-5:25
The Amazing Spider-Man (G) Mon 8:45 Tue-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (G) Mon 8:15-11:15 Tue-Thu 11:30-2:15-5:15-8:15-11:15 Mon 8-11 Tue-Thu 11:15-2-5-8-11
Brave (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5-7:30-10
Capitaine Crochet (STC) Sat 11
Hook (STC) Sat 11
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (STC) Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
L'extraordinaire Spider-Man (G) Mon 8:30 Tue-Thu 2:30-5:30-8:30
L'extraordinaire Spider-Man 3D (G) Mon 8-11 Tue-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45
Madagascar 3 - Bons baisers d'Europe (G) Fri-Wed 12:50 Thu 12-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:45
Madagascar 3 - Bons baisers d'Europe 3D (G) Fri-Wed 3:15-5:40-8:05-10:30
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Wed 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:45
Magic Mike (13+) Fri-Wed 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Thu 5:20-8-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1 Marvel's the Avengers (STC) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:55-7:05-10:15 Mon 12:45-3:55 Men in Black 3 (G) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:15-4:50-7:25-10 Mon 11:40-2:15-4:50 People Like Us (G) Fri-Thu 11:30-2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Prometheus (13+) Mon 7:55-10:50 Tue-Thu 11:15-2-5-7:55-10:50
Prometheus 3D (13+) Fri-Sun 11:15-2-5-7:55-10:50 Mon 11:15-2-5
Rebelle (STC) Fri-Wed 11:30-2-4:30-7 Thu 4:30-7 Thu 1:30
Rebelle 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:25 Tue-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30
Rock of Ages (G) Fri-Sun 1:55-4:50-7:45-10:40 Mon 11:15-1:55-4:50
Snow White and the Huntsman (G) Fri-Sun 1:55-4:50-7:50-10:50 Mon-Thu 9:25
Ted (13+) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:15-10:55 That's My Boy (STC) Fri-Sun 12-2:40-5:25-8:10-10:55 Mon 12-2:40-5:25
Ça c'est mon gars (STC) Fri-Sun 9:25 Mon 12:30-3:05-5:40

Barrhaven

Barrhaven Cinemas
131 Riocan Dr.

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Mon-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:10
Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:20-4:55-7:40-10:20 Mon 11:50-2:20-4:55
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Mon 9 Tue-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Mon 8-11:05 Tue-Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
Brave (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10
Brave 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 2:30-5-7:30-10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Thu 12:40
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:55-5:10-7:45-10
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Wed 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 Thu 4:50-7:30-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:50-7-10:05
Prometheus (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:55 Mon 1:10-4:10-9:55 Tue-Thu 9:55 Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:25

Gloucester

SilverCity
2385 City Park Dr.

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Fri-Wed 2:10-4:45-7:30-10:10
Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:50-5:25-8:10-10:45
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Mon 9:30-10:15 Tue-Thu 12-12:30-3:10-3:40-6:20-6:50-9:30-10
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Mon 8:45 Tue-Thu 1:30-4:40-7:50-11
The Amazing Spider-Man: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Mon 8-11:05 Tue-Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
Brave (PG) Fri 2-4:30-7-9:30 Sat 11:20-2-4:30-7-9:30 Sun 2-4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Tue 2-4:30-7 Wed 4:30-7 Thu 2-4:30-7 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Brave 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Hook (STC) Sat 11
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (PG) Mon 4-7 Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:35-4:55-7:20-9:40
Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:20-6:50-9:50 Mon 12:10-3:20-9:30 Tue-Thu 9:30 Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Mon 12:35 Tue-Thu 12:35-3-5:30-8:05-10:35 Men in Black 3 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3-5:30-8:05-10:35 People Like Us (14A) Fri 2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sat 11:30-2:15-5-7:45-10:30 Sun-Thu 2:15-5-7:45-10:30
Prometheus (14A) Thu 1:25-4:20-7:10-10
Prometheus 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:20-7:10-10 Mon 1:25-4:20-10:20 Tue-Wed 1:25-4:20-7:10-10
Prometheus: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri 7:40-10:30 Sat 11:10-7:40-10:30 Sun 7:40-10:30 Rock of Ages: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Mon 1:55-4:50
Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (14A) Fri-Mon 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:20-10:40 Tue-Wed 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:20 Thu 5:45-8:20 Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Mon 12:50-3:55-7:05-10:05 Tue-Thu 10:40 Ted (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:15-10:45 That's My Boy (18A) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5:10-7:55-10:25 Mon 12-2:30-5:10
Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (14A) Fri 2:20-5:05-7:50-10:35 Sat 11:40-2:20-5:05-7:50-10:35 Sun-Thu 2:20-5:05-7:50-10:35

Orleans

Empire Theatres Orleans 6 Cinemas
3752 Innes Rd.

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) , Fri-Wed 1:20 , Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20
Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 4:20-7:20-10:15 Mon-Wed 4:20-7:20 The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) , , Tue-Thu 12:40-4
The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) , Mon 8 , Tue-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:50-10 , Tue-Thu 7:15-10:30 Brave (PG) , , Fri-Mon 1-3:50-7:15-9:50 , Tue-Thu 1-3:50-7:15-9:45
Brave 3D (PG) , Fri-Sun 12:30-3:20-6:50-9:25 Mon 12:30-3:20-6:50-9:25 Tue-Thu 12:25-3:15-6:45-9:20
Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (PG) Thu 12:30-3:45-6:40-9:15
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) , Fri-Mon 12:10 , Tue-Thu 12-3-6:15-9
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Mon 3-6:15-9
Magic Mike (14A) , , Fri-Mon 12:40-3:40-6:40-10 , , Tue-Thu 1:10-3:40-6:30-9:30
People Like Us (14A) , Fri-Mon 12:50-4-7-9:45 , Tue-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:20-9:10
Prometheus (14A) , Fri-Sun 12:20
Prometheus 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 3:30-6:30-9:15 Mon 10:15 Tue-Thu 10:10 Mon 12:20-3:30 Rock of Ages (PG) , Fri-Mon 12-3:10-6:20-9:30
Ted (14A) , Fri-Mon 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 , Tue-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:10
That's My Boy (18A) , Fri-Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:20

Kanata

Kanata 24
801 Earl Grey Dr.

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (14A) Fri-Mon 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Tue-Wed 11:15-1:55-4:30-7-9:30 Fri-Mon 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Fri-Mon 11:15-12:30-1:55-3-4:30-5:30-7-8-9:30-10:30
Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D (14A) Fri-Mon 11:50-2:30-5-7:30-10
The Amazing Spider-Man (PG) Mon 12:01 Tue-Wed 11:55-1:05-3-4-6:05-7:05-9:05-10:10 The Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG) Tue-Wed 10:50-12:25-1:55-3:30-5-6:35-8:05-8:35-9:35
The Amazing Spider-Man: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Mon 12:01 Tue-Wed 10:25-1:25-4:30-7:35-10:40
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG) Fri-Wed 11:10-2-4:50-7:40-10:30
Brave (PG) Fri-Wed 10:45-11:15-11:45-1:45-2:15-2:45-4:15-4:45-5:15-6:45-7:15-7:45-9:15-9:45-10:15
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Fri-Sun 10:30-12:50-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10 Mon 10:30-12:50-3:10-5:30 Tue-Wed 10:30-12:50-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (G) Fri-Mon 11:05-1:25-3:50-7:20-9:40 Tue-Wed 11:05-1:25-3:50 Magic Mike (14A) Fri-Wed 10:55-11:40-1:50-2:20-4:25-4:55-7-7:30-9:35-10:05 Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Fri-Sun 10:35-1:40-4:50-8 Mon 10:35-1:40-4:50 Tue-Wed 10:35-1:40-4:50-8 Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 11:25-3:40-6:50-10
Men in Black 3 (PG) Fri-Wed 11:35-2:05-4:45-7:20-9:55 Moonrise Kingdom (PG) Fri-Wed 11:50-2:55-5:15-7:35-9:55
People Like Us (14A) Fri-Wed 10:55-1:55-4:35-7:25-10:05 Prometheus (14A) Fri-Wed 11:30-2:20-5:10-8 Prometheus: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Sun 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 Mon 11-1:50-4:40-7:30
Rock of Ages (PG) Fri-Mon 10:40-1:30-4:20-7:10-10 Tue-Wed 10:30-3:50-9:30
Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (14A) Fri-Mon 11:35-2:10-4:35-7:05-9:35 Tue-Wed 1:20-7 Snow White and the Huntsman (PG) Fri-Wed 10:30-1:20-4:10-7-9:50
Ted (14A) Fri-Sun 11:05-11:55-2:05-2:35-4:40-5:10-7:15-7:45-9:50-10:20 Mon 11:05-11:55-2:05-2:35-4:40-5:10-7:15-7:45-9:50-10:20
Tue-Wed 11:05-11:55-2:05-2:35-4:40-5:10-7:15-7:45-9:50-10:20
That's My Boy (18A) Fri-Wed 11:40-2:20-5:05-7:45-10:25

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seth macfarlane
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Five fierce silver-screen redheads

Brunettes have the mystery, and blonds have more fun, but it is redheads that we associate with passion. We take a look at five famous ones from the movies that exude the sexy, fiery attributes of redheads of popular imagination, like Katherine Hepburn, Emma Stone and, uh, Woody Allen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Redheads have always captivated on the screen, from 1940s sexpot Rita Hayworth, to '80s teen queen Molly Ringwald, to Mad Men's queen bee Joan Harris.

But with Pixar's Brave coming out this week — and among its more appealing visual elements being the wild mane of long, red curls on the head of Scottish princess Merida — summer 2012 could be shaping up to be the season of the redhead.

So that got us thinking about other famed auburns.

There are too many to choose from but we only get to pick five. Sorry, Carrot Top.

Katharine Hepburn

The classic redhead, even though it may not have been obvious in her early, black-and-white movies. Hepburn's hair — along with those sharp cheekbones, bright eyes and tall, athletic frame — gave her an aura of patrician and strength. In colour films, the red locks magnified her fiery persona, contributed to the sense that she was not a woman to be trifled with. And even in later films like 1981's On Golden Pond, when her tresses had faded a bit, she still exuded an air of irreverence and unpredictability.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Nicole Kidman

We see her as a blond sometimes: on the red carpet for the Oscars, for example, or in her upcoming movie The Paperboy, for which she bleached her locks platinum. She switched to a medium-brown shade for the biopic Fur: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus. But for the most part, Kidman's raven hair is a key component of her signature, statuesque look. In early films like Dead Calm and Days of Thunder, the prodigious nature of her red curls signalled the presence of someone fierce and formidable. But she's also smoothed them out and tamed them to a softer strawberry shade for movies including To Die For.

Emma Stone

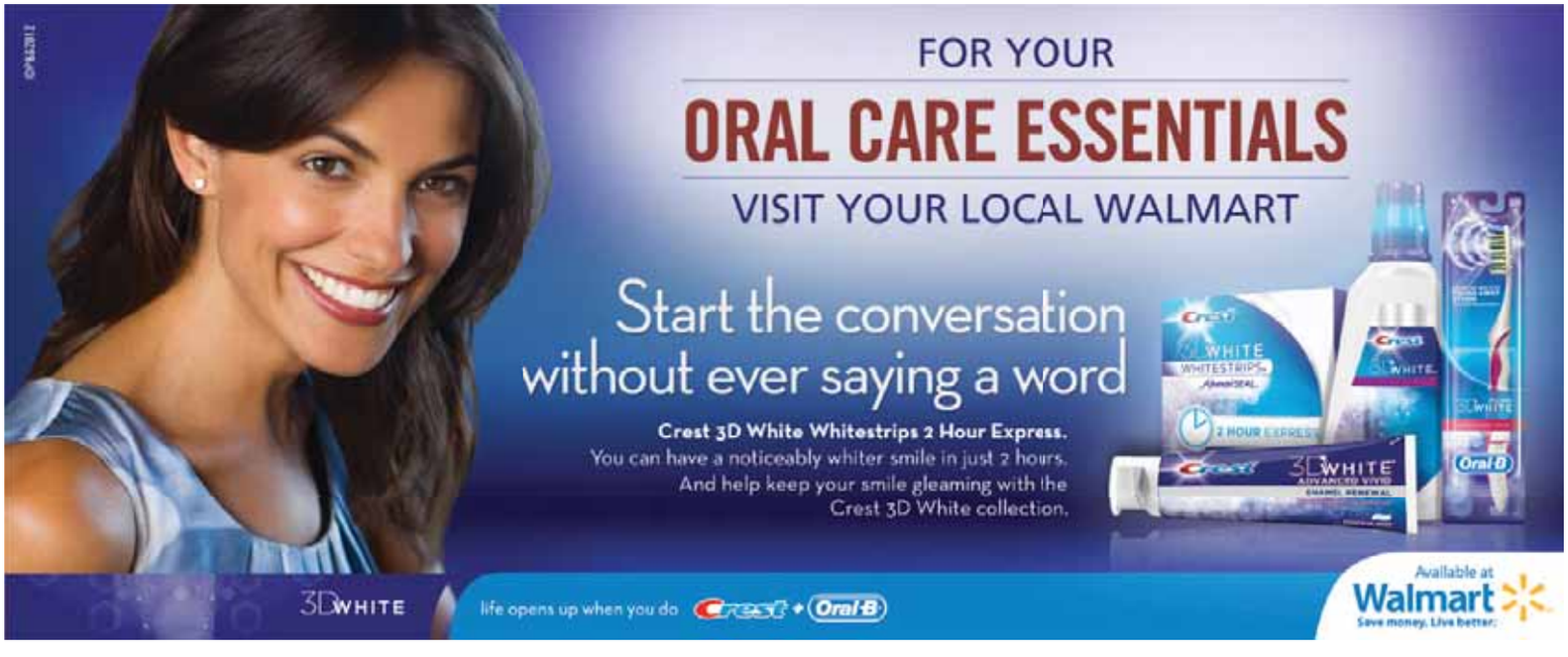
A redhead on the rise. Yes, she's back to her natural blond hair for her latest role in next month's The Amazing Spider-Man. But in the movies that put her on the map — Superbad, Zombieland and especially Easy A, the high school comedy that made it clear she's destined for superstardom — her red hair adds to her sly, subversive allure. More mature roles came along last year in two big movies: The Help and Crazy Stupid Love. Her entire vibe suggests that she'd just be a cool chick to hang out with, and a lot of that has to do with the intriguing contrast of her dark red hair and bright green eyes.

Woody Allen

They can't all be women, right? He's 76 now and the years have understandably greyed him, as evidenced this week as he appears on screen in his latest movie, the ensemble comedy To Rome With Love. But in his earliest films, like 1971's Bananas and 1977's Annie Hall, the shaggy red hair combined with the eyeglasses, you can see the demeanour and the delivery that creates his trademark, neurotic persona. While red hair can seem so exciting on women, Allen's contributed to the sensation that he was an underdog, someone you always want to root for to get out of a predicament or fall in love.

Jessica Rabbit

So maybe she's not a "real" person (although she's inspired countless real fantasies, not to mention naughty Halloween costumes). But we have to admit that when we started pondering the notion of movie redheads, this cartoon character's name is the first one that popped into our heads. The femme fatale from Robert Zemeckis' 1988 film Who Framed Roger Rabbit, a groundbreaking mix of live-action and animation, simply oozes sex appeal, especially as voiced by Kathleen Turner. Crucial to her look is her long mane of wavy, red tresses, which cascade down all the right places on her curvy frame.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Sound Check

A rendering of the Hall of Fame. HANDOUT

Canada finally getting music hall of fame

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

In a speech at the Empire Club last week, Conrad Black mused "Canadians are notoriously non messianic or self-important, and have no illusions about being a light onto the world."

That's a bingo. How else to explain that the Canadian Music Hall of Fame doesn't have a proper home? Despite Canada punching far above its weight when it comes to exporting music to the world, we've done a lousy job of documenting our nation's musical achievements.

That, however, is finally starting to change. The National Music Centre in Calgary is seeing to that. Later this year, construction will begin at a corner east of downtown on a 160,000 square-foot ultra-modern facility that will span 4th Street SE from what is now an empty lot to the King Edward Hotel, a legendary (but now closed) blues joint. When completed sometime in early 2015, we will have a state-of-the-art celebration of Canadian music.

"This will be more than a place with just plaques on the wall," says Andrew Mosker, the NMC's president and CEO. "We want to make it completely immersive and interactive."

Some $75 million is already in place from three levels of government and public fundraising. There's still another $40 million to go, but things look bright.

There will be a 300-seat theatre, a recording studio, a live-work block for artists in residence, a multitude of educational facilities and a large collection of artifacts relevant to our musical history.

And it's more than just rock. There's country music, classical music and jazz (gotta get Glenn Gould and Oscar Peterson in there). Visitors will also learn about the effect geography and multiculturalism has had on our music.

"It's quite a broad vision," says Mosker, "and it will take a lot of work to execute. But we'll do it."

Meanwhile, NMC HQ — located a few blocks west of where the new building will rise — is open for business. They have one of the most spectacular collections of keyboards you will ever see. There are protopianos from the 16th century, Theremins from the 1920s to giant component synthesizers from the 1970s (including the actual synth used in Close Encounters of the Third Kind). The original Rolling Stones mobile recording truck is parked in storage somewhere, too.

So, if you're in Calgary for the Stampede, reserve some time to take a tour of the NMC. Everyone else should look at nmc.ca.

Call Me Maybe the summer's biggest hit

Pop music. Carly Rae Jepsen speaks about the song that has suddenly come to define your favourite months of the year

Carly Rae Jepsen arrives at the 2012 MuchMusic Video Awards at MuchMusic. JAG GUNDU/GETTY IMAGES

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

When we reached out to Carly Rae Jepsen to talk about Call Me Maybe, her suddenly ubiquitous smash, which is No. 1 for the third straight week in a row, we told her that Metro readers had named it the song of the summer, and we'd love to ask her a few questions about it.

Call me, maybe, we said. She was too busy, caught up in the whirlwind that sudden international attention demands, but she asked if we would settle for an e-mail interview. Even in electronic correspondence, the bubbly persona she projects in her hit song comes through.

Hello Carly Rae Jepsen! Congratulations on pretty much having locked up the honour of Song of the Summer with Call Me Maybe.
Oh wow! Thank you so much. It definitely has been quite the ride. Happy to hear it makes the summer playlist!

I've seen that you've said you were shocked about the song becoming No. 1, but when you wrote it, did you have any idea that it would be a hit?
I co-wrote Call Me Maybe with two of my best friends: Josh Ramsay and Tavish Crowe. None of us expected this. We enjoyed the writing and production process and thought it was a fun one, but that's about it.

What time of the year was it when you wrote it?
It was written in the summer time. Started out as a folk song that Tav and I were jamming to while on tour. Then we showed the idea to Josh and he helped us popify it!

There's one part in the 21 Jump Street movie where Jonah Hill's character, as an older undercover cop, calls a girl in his class, and she says something to the effect of, "What are you doing? Nobody calls anybody anymore!" Was there any thought that using the phrase "call me" might seem outdated to kids?

Was there ever a draft of the song that was Text Me Maybe or anything?
Nah, text me doesn't sing as well.

There have been so many tributes and parodies of Call Me Maybe, which one is your favorite?
That's hard to decide. I like the video with Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez, Ashley Tisdale and the guys from Big Time Rush. It was sort of the video to spark them all so it's special to me. That being said, the Katy Perry one makes me smile too.

Any plans to incorporate the Harvard Baseball team's elaborate choreography into your live show?
Yah, I know, that's not a bad idea.

So many people have already covered the song as well, if you could hear any artist living or dead cover it, who would it be?
John Mayer... He's my celebrity crush. Him and Ryan Gosling. A duet perhaps?

The Song of the Summer is such an interesting honour because it means your song serves as the soundtrack to a time of year that is so traditionally happy. What have been some of your own personal Songs of the Summer from growing up? Any fun memories to share?
My summer is always about camping, which means guitars and bonfires and good old fashioned sing-alongs.

The Flaming Lips. Band set to break live show record

Fun for Wayne Coyne of The Flaming Lips means collaboration, and a recent dust-up with Erykah Badu after they worked together isn't slowing him down.

Coyne and the Lips will launch an attempt at the Guinness World Records mark for most live shows in 24 hours, playing eight concerts between Memphis, Tenn., and New Orleans on Wednesday and Thursday. Trailed by fans along the way, they'll meet up with acts like Jackson Browne, Grace Potter & The Nocturnals, Gary Clarke Jr. and Hunter Hayes as part of the activities surrounding MTV's O Music Awards.

The Oklahoma rockers have been finalizing details and juggling schedules and logistics as they chase Jay-Z's record of seven shows in a day.

"If you had to really consider all this in the beginning, you just simply wouldn't want to do it," Coyne said in a phone interview last week. "Luckily, it occurs to you when you get closer and closer. I think it's a little bit like having a baby. At the beginning of it is a lot of fun, but by the time it's here, really it's too late to turn back."

That analogy isn't too far off the mark when it comes to describing the row between Badu and Coyne, either. Things seemed to be going great until the Lips released the video for The First Time I Ever Saw Your Face, their Heady Fwends record store day collaboration, earlier this month. The Lips eventually retracted the video after Badu accused the group of releasing it without her approval.

In the video Badu sits apparently naked in a tub, then later her sister Nayrok mucks about in a milky white substance and glitter. The disagreement spilled over on Twitter where Badu invited Coyne to kiss her "glittery" posterior and Coyne responded with a picture of himself with lips covered in glitter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wayne Coyne, lead singer and guitarist of The Flaming Lips THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Beach Boys are back

Good Vibrations. New album and extensive tour ain't too shabby for Brian Wilson and co.

PAT HEALY
scene@metronews.ca

Mike Love, lead singer of the Beach Boys performs in May in Las Vegas, Nevada. JEFF BOTTARI/GETTY IMAGES

Within the first minute of conversation, Al Jardine is marveling about the fact that the Beach Boys are together again, celebrating 50 years of music, with a new album called That's Why God Made the Radio and a tour with a set list that reflects half a century of sunny surf songs.

"It's truly amazing that we're cognizant enough," he starts. "No, that's the wrong word, that we're capable enough of delivering the goods at this high of a level for a 50-song set."

Jardine is funny, candid, self-deprecating and acutely aware that the history of America's original party band includes more than a few chapters that are not at all Fun, Fun, Fun.

The guitarist and singer was one of the founding members of the legendary band and he performed as a Beach Boy through the late '90s, when the death of another founding member, Carl Wilson, caused the band to splinter into a situation where members with different names for their projects played Beach Boys tunes. Jardine's project was called the Endless Summer Band.

He says the years of playing these classic songs without his fellow founders necessitated a little adjustment when all of the surviving members came together again.

"We had to get used to everybody's personalities in the band, because we didn't use our own bands," he says. "Brian, for the most part, used his own band, because he's the most sensitive to that as his people have been a component to his resurrection, really. He's really insistent on keeping that chemistry together, and we went along with it."

The Brian he's speaking of, is of course the genius in residence, Brian Wilson, who stopped touring with the band in the mid '60s to focus on writing and producing the band's albums (as well as to reduce the stress on his notoriously fragile psyche).

But even the pressures of producing, coupled with drug use, caused Brian Wilson to have a nervous breakdown when the Beach Boys were at their creative peak. The album that Wilson was working on with the band, SMiLE went unfinished for almost 40 years until that resurrection period Jardine mentioned.

But Jardine seems very happy to have so many members who are so close to Wilson on the stage with him.

"For the first time in the history of our music-making, we've had enough people on stage to do all the parts," he says.

"We overdubbed so much — we were like harmony fanatics — that we never could put all of it together in one place at one time. Now you have the original voices and pretty darn good players and singers doing the parts that the three or four of us haven't ever done. We used to combine everything, like in Good Vibrations."

Reunited and it feels so good

"It's a good sign for the world, that these guys, these litigious Beach Boys have been able to bury the hatchet. We can still share a positive thing. The good vibrations are alive and well — let's put it that way — in this band."

Al Jardine, founding member of The Beach Boys, guitarist, composer and occasional lead vocalist

Dance diva. Erika Jayne keeping her musical sound clean and simple

Since her debut in 2007, pop singer Erika Jayne has dominated the top of the Billboard Dance Chart with hits like Stars and Party People (Ignite the World). Metro caught up with her at her L.A. rehearsal space before she heads north.

Erika Jayne finds herself tearing up the charts and finding new fans. HANDOUT

How is rehearsal going?
It's good. You know, we're putting the show together and teaching someone new, so that's always a fun process. And it gives me a chance to brush up, for me to revisit it — a tune-up, actually.

You've been making music videos as well. What's the best use for those, now that MTV and VH1 aren't really an avenue anymore?
I think, you know, you put them on the Net, and that's really where they're found. I've had a great response, and I look forward to having bigger, better responses. And we just shot a video to my new single, Get it Tonight. We just finished it up and it should be out soon.

That video takes place in a Japanese-stylish arcade, and it's filled with my favorite things, which are boys and fun (laughs). And lots of bright colors and lots of fun and lots of smiles, you know. Hot dudes and really cute girls. There's a great dance break in it, a partner break this time. I've never done a partner break in a video before, so that was fun. It's a really easy, fun video.

How much do you try to recreate that live?
It depends. Like, I'm not going to have boys and girls on stage this time, so I can't recreate that dance break. But there's definitely a common thread. The show is girls, hot short-shorts — we're doing (City-TV's) Breakfast Television the day before, which will be fun. It's going to be fun — super-sexy.

Where are you looking to take your music, style-wise?
I think the first album and a couple of singles after that was definitely based around the themes of fantasy, love and escape. And this new album that's coming out is really more about glitz, glamour and fun. The music is still deeply dance-rooted, it's got a lot of pop overtones, but it's still very Erika Jayne and it's a "have a good time" message. If I had to describe the new stuff, it would be glitz, glamour and fun.

NED EHRBAR/METRO WORLD NEWS

Bringing the broken dreams to big screen

Liz Phair music. Artist on soundtrack of Alex Kurtzman's People like Us, which follows a man who discovers he has a half sister

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Liz Phair might not be used to the luxuries of promoting a major motion picture.

"Can I steal a water? I lost mine somewhere along the way," she asks, eyeing a tray of drinks on a side table in a suite at the Four Seasons.

"This is so much easier than my normal life. I love this. Rock and roll is, like, way worse," she confides. "If I were doing any kind of stuff gearing up for a release, it would be like phoners to death, just on and on and on, you'd do 50 million of them."

After nearly three decades in the rock world, Phair finds herself in Hollywood for the first time, penning Dotted Line, the closing track for Alex Kurtzman's People Like Us. Writing for a movie was new territory for Phair — and that's just how she likes it.

"The whole way along, I felt like I'd stumbled into something where I was out of my depth, which is my favorite thing," she says. "I throw myself into the deep end of the pool all the time, but it's always scary."

Singer Liz Phair attends the 2012 Los Angeles Film Festival. JESSE GRANT/GETTY IMAGES

What was scary, it turns out, was seeing an earlier version of the movie at a Dreamworks screening room with Kurtzman in tow. The writer-director had approached her early on in the process, Phair remembers.

"Alex called me almost a year and half before it was finished. I didn't know what he wanted with me. I was like, 'Sure, I'll go to lunch at Dreamworks,'" she says with a laugh and a shrug. "He said that he'd been listening to my music when he was trying to write the character of Frankie (played by Elizabeth Banks), and that my rock persona helped him get into her. And damned if he didn't hit every one of my issues in the film.

"I didn't hear from him for many months, and then he called and said, 'Do you want to see a cut?'" she remembers.

And so it was back to Dreamworks.

"I bawled my eyes out in a dark room with these two men who were completely unmoved — they were like, 'We should start this shot sooner,'" she says.

People Like Us follows two adults (Banks and Chris Pine) as they discover that they are half-siblings after their father, a successful rock producer, passes away. And that character, who looms over the story without actually being in it, is a familiar one to Phair.

"There are so many broken people in music, but they're doing something beautiful with that brokenness," she says.

Quote

"There are so many broken people in music, but they're doing something beautiful with that brokenness"
Liz Phair

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MOVES LIKE MAROON 5

Two members of the band talk about their permanent brush with fame, their new album, and address rumours that frontman Adam Levine might go solo

OVEREXPOSED

Adam Levine, right, and James Valentine of Maroon 5, pose for a photo in Los Angeles. MATT SAYLES/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adam Levine knows the game.

Seconds after sitting down for an on-camera interview and before any questions are asked, the Maroon 5 frontman playfully rattles off canned responses he's used in recent months while promoting The Voice and the band's fourth album.

"It is our poppiest record ever. We're really embracing the pop side. Christina (Aguilera) and I are all good. We don't fight," he says brightly. "I feel great about this record! Probably our best ever!"

He lets out a stagey, fake chuckle, and it's clear that the 33-year-old Los Angeles native both relishes the spotlight and has been around long enough to grow a smidge tired of its glare.

Quoted

"I always loved playing music with my friends and being in a bit of a fraternity with my best friends and playing and travelling the world. To be a solo artist, I'm just not interested. I never have been."

Adam Levine, on going solo

Thus the title of the album, Overexposed, which finds the five-man group at its commercial peak ten years after its debut Songs About Jane. Last year's standalone single Moves Like Jagger, featuring the aforementioned Aguilera, stayed at No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100 for a month. Overexposed's lead single Payphone is now in the top five.

Levine and guitarist James Valentine spoke with The Associated Press in a recording studio about Maroon 5's "identity issues," educating young fans and why Levine doesn't plan to go solo.

Why Overexposed as an album title?

Levine: We thought we would just kind of say it before everybody else did. ... My face is on buses, which is a trip and it's weird. ... The Jagger tune propelled us into the stratosphere even more, combined with the show and a lot of things that are happening right now.

And do the songs address that as well?

Levine: They're love songs and they're songs about dysfunction but also songs about having a good time. I used to have to be miserable to write a song. And that's kind of gone away.

Valentine: It's weird because when things are going well for him, he's just not inspired to write, because he's enjoying life and enjoying being in those moments. Then as soon as things get a little hairy, then all of (the) sudden songs come out, which is good for us.

Levine: But we also have the moments that I think are just speaking more universally. ... That kind of clarity is what's best about the record. ... It's not shrouded in too much metaphor and ambiguity and poetry. I used to think about it much more poetically but I don't anymore. I'm much more concerned with making everyone understand what I mean and what I'm feeling.

Your 14-year-old fans likely don't understand what a pay phone is, though.

Levine: Payphones and Mick Jagger could be considered things that some kids don't know about. I think that actually if you did some sort of poll, you'd say: "What's a pay phone? Who is Mick Jagger?" I think you'd be shocked by how similar the responses were from that particular demographic.

Valentine: We're like history teachers!

Do you feel there was a pre-Jagger Maroon 5 and a post-Jagger Maroon 5?

Valentine: Definitely. Jagger sort of laid down a blueprint for what we're going to do next. We were definitely due for a change, and I think we were definitely going to go in some new directions, but (with) the success of Jagger, of course we're going to try doing some more stuff like that.

Levine: Also if Jagger was us dipping our toe into the water, we launched into the river on this record, which was cool because I think that our band has had some identity issues over the past few years and we've been wrestling between trying to stick to being a band in a traditional sense and that clearly wasn't really working. ... Maybe going a bit poppier or kind of like embracing the pop music side of our band on this record makes who we are much more clear.

Adam, could you see yourself going solo and then coming back to the band?

Levine: No. And I know I say this and "famous last words," but being a solo artist is so painfully uncool. I always loved playing music with my friends and being in a bit of a fraternity with my best friends and playing and travelling the world. To be a solo artist, I'm just not interested. I never have been. I'd sooner start another band. And why would I want to start over as myself? THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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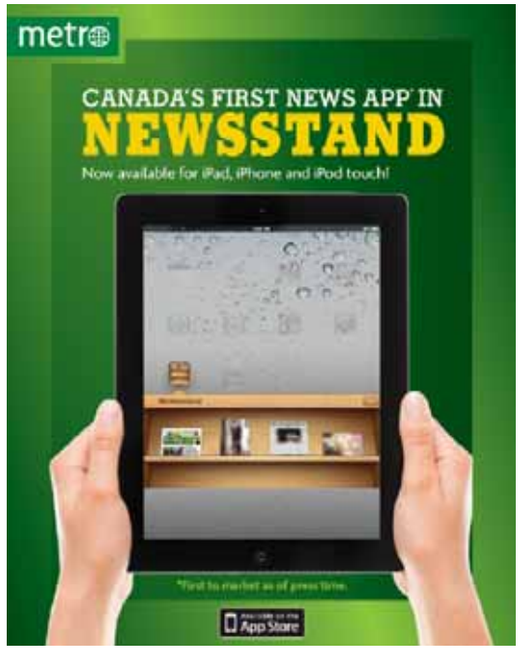

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Woody Guthrie, singer, songwriter, dean of American folk artists with his acoustic guitar in 1947 HANDOUT/RCA VICTOR

Rediscovering the music and spirit of Woody Guthrie

Folk icon. 100 years since his passing, three generations of the artist's descendants touring together

LINDA LABAN
scene@metronews.ca

Born on July 14, 1912, in Okemah, Oklahoma, Woody Guthrie's centennial returns the folk icon's vox pop spirit to the spotlight as dozens of concerts, festivals and tributes play out through the summer and fall all over the world.

Not surprisingly, Woody's son, Arlo, his grandchildren and great grandchildren have their own travelling Guthrie Family Reunion tour.

"We've only done this once before, and that was years ago," says Woody's granddaughter Sarah Lee from her home in the Berkshires in western Massachusetts, which is where she grew up.

"Seventeen of us on one bus and my mom and dad on another. It was one big happy family; a bit different from most family reunions, I'm sure. Now we've got three generations of us touring around, and then we have Woody's spirit, so we've got four generations."

At various places, famous Woody Guthrie fans like Billy Bragg, who performs at a special birthday celebration in Okemah, and Steve Earle, who leads WoodyFest in Manhattan, Woody's home base, will join the family in reviving some of his iconic folk paeans.

"There are so many of his songs that still ring true," says Sarah Lee. "You can compare a lot of the old Woody Guthrie songs and they apply to what's going on today. Songs like Pastures of Plenty and I Ain't Got No Home,'a lot of those old songs are more important in our lives than they've ever been."

Occupy Woodfest

Chances are if Woody Guthrie were a young man right now, he wouldn't be at the Occupy sit-ins. He'd be leading them.

- **His spirit.** "He'd be thrilled to know that people have the guts to stand up for what they believe in," says Sarah Lee Guthrie. "He knew that it was powerful to unite and use your voices. It was never about right or left wing, it was about presenting an unbiased account of the facts and then making up your own mind. I think Woody is out there with them."

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LL Cool J: 'I want to connect musicians everywhere so there's no limitations'

Social media phenomenon. LL Cool J wants you to make music together (traditional studio optional)

KILLIAN YOUNG
scene@metronews.ca

LL Cool J GETTY IMAGES

LL Cool J's dream came to fruition last week with the release of his new software, Future Sounds My Connect Studio, a Google Docs-meets-Pro Tools software that allows any two artists in the world to create professional-quality tracks together live.

The rapper said at the software's introductory press conference last week that he wanted to use the Internet to break down the walls that had previously made recording music difficult. Traditional studios, he said, cost too much time and money, and digital collaboration was limited to unwieldy back-and-forth emails between him and his producer.

"I want to connect musicians everywhere so there's no limitations, there's no barriers to them connecting with each other," LL Cool J said.

My Connect Studio comes from Boomdizzle — a social media site where musicians can collaborate, rate each other's music and publish tracks to iTunes — which LL Cool J co-founded in 2008. Sony then integrated My Connect Studio as part of its Vaio E14P laptop. The software also interacts with Facebook and uses Microsoft Cloud hosting.

Would the rapper have used My Connect Studio as an up-and-coming artist?

"There's no way I would let this opportunity pass me by, you know what I'm saying?" LL Cool J told Metro. "I'd use it for everything it had and try to make the best music I can make, let the chips fall where they may after that."

However, My Connect Studio is not without its limits. Currently, the software is PC-exclusive and only available through Sony's VAIO laptop, although LL Cool J said that a Mac version of the software was in the making, as well as mobile and tablet forms. Only two artists can collaborate in one session at a time, but LL Cool J said that project engineers were working to enable more people to work together live.

LL Cool J said that the use of the software would be free in the initial release period, and eventually users would either subscribe or utilize a pay-as-you-go alternative by the hour. Sony calls the 12-month subscription (with 10 hours of recording per month) included in the bundle a "$75 value" on its website.

Rapper's other plans

A new album

LL Cool J also coyly revealed that he's been working on a new album, some of which will be recorded using My Connect Studio.

"I'm gonna do a little bit of the album on the 'Studio' and make sure that it's official," he said with a smile. "As a matter of fact, I started on my album, too. It's authentic hip-hop. It's the business."

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HAIR & BEAUTY BAR

Chaz Bono made a cameo appearance on Degrassi in Toronto on Thursday. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

‘Years and years in pain and confusion’

Transgender storyline. Chaz Bono in Toronto to shoot episode of Degrassi

Chaz Bono says he would have transitioned from female to male as a teen, if he had the chance.

But the transgender celebrity says he had no idea what a transgender person even was when he was growing up, and that teens today have so much more support available to them.

Bono says that’s one of the reasons he spent much of Thursday on the set of Degrassi in East End Toronto, where he shot a cameo with the show’s transgender teen character, Adam.

“There are a lot of trans kids and teens and to have representation of themselves really means a lot,” Bono said before heading in front of the cameras under a sunny sky.

“At that age there wasn’t anything (for me). I didn’t know about transgender people or that there was a possibility to transition or anything. And it made it really difficult to figure out what was going on with me.”

Bono appears as a judge on a battle of the bands contest that involves Adam’s group, WhisperHug. Adam spots Bono and approaches him to talk about girl troubles, and the struggles of gaining acceptance as a transgender teen.

Bono says he jumped at the chance to appear on the show after running into Degrassi producers at last year’s Emmy Awards.

The drama was nominated for outstanding children’s program for an episode that delved into Adam’s struggles to live as a boy, even though he was born female.

Bono says he spent “years and years in pain and confusion” because so little was known about transgender issues when he was young.

Had he understood what he was going though and had access to support systems available today, things could have been different.

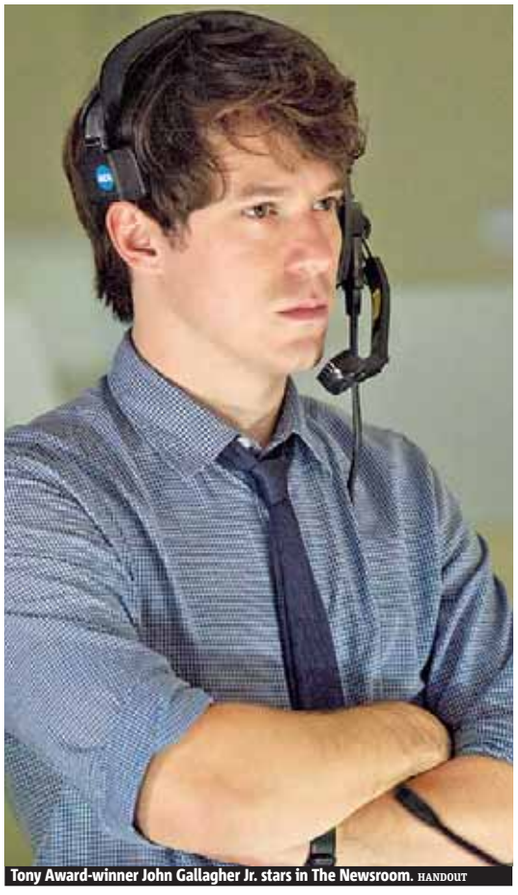
“If it was like it is today when I was a kid, yeah I’m sure I would have,” he says when asked if he would have transitioned as a teen. “But it wasn’t. Nobody knew anything.... It’s completely different now.”

Bono’s episode will air towards the middle of season 12, which begins July 16 on MuchMusic. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chaz Bono

The former Dancing With the Stars contestant was born Chastity Bono to celebrity parents Cher and Sonny Bono.

- **His story.** Bono says he struggled with his gender identity even as he came out as a lesbian in the 1990s.
- **Transition.** It wasn’t until much later that he realized he was transgender. From that moment, Bono says it took another nine years to actually begin the transition from female to male.


Tony Award-winner John Gallagher Jr. stars in The Newsroom. HANDOUT

John Gallagher Jr.: The Newsroom's beating heart

HBO Canada. Aaron Sorkin's journalism-driven dramatic series highlights a hero behind the scenes

T. MICHELLE MURPHY
Metro World News

The Newsroom, now airing on HBO Canada, is primarily tied to two names: Aaron Sorkin, the show's creator, and Jeff Daniels, who stars as Will McAvoy. Although McAvoy is the lead anchorman on a nightly political talk show, the audience quickly learns that the characters working behind the scenes — like lovelorn senior producer Jim Harper, played by Tony Award-winner John Gallagher Jr. — are its true anchors. We spoke to the former Spring Awakening actor after screening the series's first few episodes, which take place in 2010 and 2011.

We love that the show embraces a near-past format that lets you retroactively elaborate on recent, important news items.

When I first read the pilot, that was one of the things that really grabbed me about the format of the show. It's not five years in the past, and it's not five months in the past, it's just long enough to remind everyone of how fickle the 24-hour news cycle has become. Once the cycle is over, we tend to just forget and move onto the next thing.

You don't have to tell us, we're a daily newspaper! So what else attracted you to the role of Jim Harper?

I'm a big Aaron Sorkin fan. All the characters jumped off the page for me, in particular Jim. When you read a lot of scripts, you rarely find a character that feels so defined and complete. I love how Jim is so good at what he does professionally, he's all-in at what he does with his job. And as a result of focusing so much on that, by the time he's reaching his 20s he's basically inept with day-to-day social interactions. He was an embedded reporter — he went to Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan — but when he comes home and has to ask a girl out, he has no idea what he's doing.

It seems like this show is a good fit for you, considering your stage history. In the first four episodes alone, I counted seven theater references.

I think Aaron said that there's not a single episode of The Newsroom that doesn't include at least one musical theater reference. There's a pretty funny Evita reference coming up that you'll get to see in a few weeks.

How has it been transitioning from stage to screen?

Aaron's coming from the theater, starting as a playwright, and a lot of the other actors that I get to work with have spent a lot of time onstage and therefore are naturally inclined to create a very good ensemble dynamic — you just play well together. A gentleman who worked backstage on the set said: 'I've been doing this 25 years, and I don't think I've ever seen a cast be so prepared when they show up.' And I said, 'A lot of us do runs of plays where you have to be prepared — you have to go out there and do it without a safety net every single night.' So working with actors with a similar background certainly makes it feel more like home. And Aaron is such a theatrical writer, he writes really long scenes for television. One of his staples is very verbose dialogue. Learning those long scenes, it doesn't feel completely unlike learning a long scene for a play.

You also worked with Sorkin's theatrical brand of writing during a one-episode stint on The West Wing many years ago, right?

I did the Season 4 premiere, and I didn't actually get to meet him. The episode shot in Pittsburgh, and I went there for a couple of weeks to shoot. I had never seen an episode of "The West Wing" when I did that; it wasn't until a couple of years later that I sat down with the DVDs.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Twins for True Blood couple

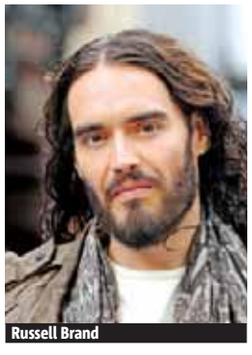
Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer are reportedly expecting twins — and it was one of their True Blood co-stars who let the news out.

Sam Trammell, who stars on the HBO series with Paquin and Moyer and is a father to twins himself, tells Us Weekly he's been doing his best to prepare the parents-to-be.

"It's harder, having twins, but it's all we know. So we're trying to impart some decent wisdom," Trammell says.

"I told them to hold on tight."

Brand calls for British revolution against Royals



Russell Brand

Russell Brand is unimpressed with the British Royal Family and thinks it's time for a change. The recent Diamond Jubilee, celebrating the Queen's 60-year reign, didn't help matters, either.

"People need to have things to celebrate otherwise we realize that we are oppressed and unable to express ourselves freely because we are at the behest of all these corporate entities," Brand says in an interview with Conan O'Brien. "So yeah, have a party to distract us from the fact that we're being tyrannized, why not?"

So what's Brand's solution? "It's time for a bloody revolution," he says. "It only takes one to chop off someone's head."

The Word

Kelly Osbourne explains drunk flight

MONICA WEYMOUTH
scene@metronews.ca

After sobbing over a pile of cocktails on a recent flight, Kelly Osbourne wants to clear things up.

The reality show star — who has been to rehab for drugs, but admits to drinking moderately — tells Radar Online that she had been doing research about multiple sclerosis after her brother's diagnosis and became overwhelmed.

"On the plane I started looking at the website," she tells the site. "It described how bad certain cases of MS got, and it made me lose it."

Kelly, the next time all you have to say is, "I was thousands of feet up in the air in an insane machine that doesn't even have the courtesy to flap its wings." We've had that cry.

Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lohan settles 'hostage' suit

Better late than never: Lindsay Lohan has finally reached a settlement for a lawsuit relating to a 2007 reckless driving incident during which she took three men "hostage" while chasing down her assistant, according to TMZ.

The incident resulted in Lohan's second DUI arrest. On the night in question, the three men arrived at a party in Malibu just as Lohan's assistant quit her job and drove off. Lohan reportedly commandeered the men's car — with them in it — to make chase.

During the chase, the men say Lohan was "hostile," declaring she "didn't care about the risk of death" and saying "she was a celebrity, she could do whatever she wants."

She was later arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and cocaine.

Lohan has reportedly agreed to pay off the three men, though the sum was undisclosed and a dismissal is expected to be filed soon.

Sheen speaks out on hotel party rumours

Charlie Sheen is quick to deny claims that he had another wild hotel room party in New York last weekend that resulted in him being banned from any Ritz-Carlton property.

"It's just stupid," Sheen tells Hollyscoop. "It's just totally beneath me to even comment on it. It's just that people are so jealous. It's like, 'Another comeback from this guy? Let's just beat him while he's down.' I'm kind of bothered by that, too, but who cares? I'm here and they're not, you know? Period, the end, right?"

Sheen's reps say no such party took place, and they've even produced a Ritz employee to chime in with, "Charlie was here for three days. He looked so good. He was clean and sober and very friendly."

The employee added that Sheen's room "was clean" when he checked out.

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Nothing says O Canada like gravy, cheese curds and fries

Poutine. Three Canadian chefs tell us what topping makes it the perfect dish

It's uniquely Canadian and in its purest form consists of three simple ingredients. But chefs are getting a lot more creative with poutine toppings. From bacon, and pulled pork to vegan gravy and mushrooms, if you can dream it, it can probably top your poutine.

"I like poutine with smoked meat in it. It substantiates the dish, soaks up some of the juices, keeping the fries a little crispier. Call me biased, but fries, cheese, gravy and smoked chicken makes for a fabulous dish."

David Neinstein of Barque Smokehouse

"Today, poutine can have almost any topping you can think of: Pad Thai Poutine, Butter Chicken Poutine, Braised Beef Cheeks Poutine and on and on. I have many favourite additions such as crispy pork belly, sticky beef short ribs and duck confit with green onions."

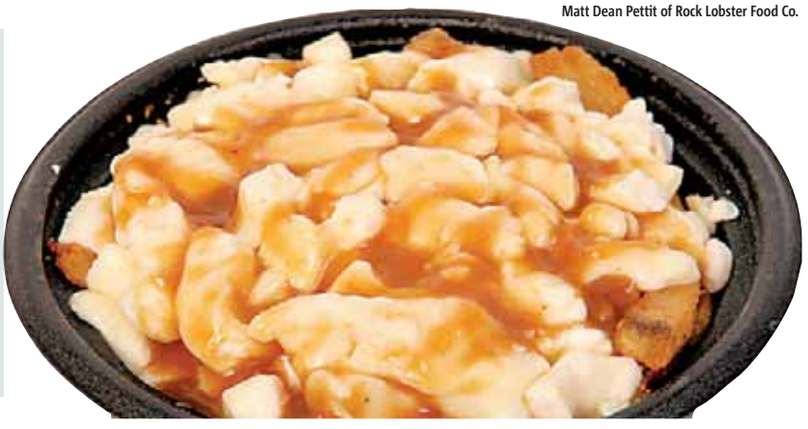
Stephen Pynn of Bannock

"For me, the perfect topping is an easy choice — lobster! As Canadians, we have a few national foods that everyone can identify and are familiar with: poutine and lobster. Why not combine them both? You are taking a classic poutine and adding a serious flavourful kick. That's easily my favourite poutine."

Matt Dean Pettit of Rock Lobster Food Co.

History

The dish originated in rural Quebec in the late 1950s. Several Québécois communities claim to be the birthplace of poutine, including Drummondville and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. One often-cited tale is that of Fernand Lachance, from Warwick, Que. who claims that poutine was invented there in 1957 when he exclaimed, "ça va faire une maudite poutine ("it will make a damn mess"), hence the name.



Smokehouse. Neinstein's version boasts chicken

1. Place cut potatoes in bowl and let water run over them for 10 mins. In the meantime, preheat oil to 350 F using candy thermometre. Preheat oven on broiler function.

2. Strain fries and pat dry. Fry potatoes in two batches 4 minutes at a time. Let the oil heat up between batches. Place fries on paper towel to cool.

3. While fries are cooling, follow demi-glace instructions to make gravy and add a tablespoon of chopped thyme to finished product.

4. Pull meat from chicken, discarding the skin.

5. Fry potatoes second time, also in two batches, at 360 F until golden brown, about 3 to 4 minutes. Place fries on paper towel to cool, season liberally with salt and paprika.

6. Place fries in heat-proof dish, sprinkle pulled chicken, then dot with cheese curds and place in oven 3 minutes, watching that it does not burn. Remove from oven and top with gravy.

RECIPE COURTESY OF DAVID NEINSTEIN

Ingredients

- 2 russet potatoes, cleaned and cut into 3/8 inch sticks
- 3 litres vegetable oil
- Package powdered demi-glace
- Thyme, salt and paprika, to taste
- 2 smoked chicken thighs
- 8 oz package cheese curds

Pynn's stuffed vision

1. Sauté onion and celery in the butter until soft. Mix with other stuffing ingredients and stuff a chicken. Roast chicken for 35-45 mins. at 325 F.

2. After letting cool and stripping chicken of meat, roast bones at 425 F until well browned, approximately 30 mins. Turn heat down to 325 F and add garlic, celery, onion and herbs and cook for 15 mins.

3. In a sauce pot melt butter and add flour, stirring the whole while over a low heat. Slowly add 1 1/2 litres of stock and continue to stir. Add all remaining ingredients (but pepper, vinegar, curds and fries) and contents of roasting pan.

4. Bring to a simmer and cook for 20 min or until desired consistency is reached. Thin with remaining stock if required. Add cracked pepper and splash sherry vinegar.

5. When ready to dress poutine, crisp some stuffing in a non-stick pan. Then, add fries, cheese curds, stuffing and piping hot gravy in stainless steel bowl that will allow curds to melt with gravy. Top off with more stuffing.

RECIPE COURTESY OF STEPHEN PYNN

Stephen Pynn. SUBMITTED

Ingredients

Stuffing
- 1/4 cup each diced onion and celery
- 1/3 cup diced butter
- 1 egg
- 3 cups bread crumbs
- 1 - 1 1/2 tsp dried savory
- salt and pepper to taste
- whole chicken

Gravy
- Chicken bones from chicken (including skin and wing tips)
- 1/4 cup sliced celery
- 1/2 a head of garlic
- 1/4 cup sliced onion
- 5 sprigs thyme
- 2 sprigs rosemary
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tbsp black peppercorns
- 1/2 lb butter
- 1/2 lb flour
- 2 litres chicken stock
- Cracked black pepper
- Splash sherry vinegar
- Cheese curds
- French fries

Liquid Assets

Drinking the red & white

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
peterrockwell@eastlink.cca

Oh, Canada, I remember a day when your wine looked like 50 shades of varnish and tasted almost as bad. We should all be happy that times have changed.

Canada Day is an excellent opportunity to drink to the flag and with family being such a big part of a long weekend, I can't think of a better place to start than Sibling Rivalry from Ontario's Henry of Pelham.

The 2010 VQA Red ($13.95 - $15.99) is a soothing blend of merlot, cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon with plump berry fruit and upfront oak that's made for grilled meats. Meanwhile, the 2010 VQA White ($13.95 - $15.99) is a hip mix of riesling, chardonnay and gewürztraminer that's a sexy, seafood friendly combo of citrus and flowing aromatics.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

3 LIFE

Readers' Choice

What is your ideal topping?

We asked Twitter: There's cheese curds and gravy, but what extra ingredients would you add to poutine to make it spectacular?

- **@Metrick_System: Shawarma poutine?**
- **@bertiec1: BACON.**
- **@Roxxanao: salsa, guacamole and sour cream! Mmm #TexMex #poutine**
- **@_Shereen: Hot sauce #poutine**
- **@AdamWeitner: anything more just ruins it in my opinion. More is not always better!**
- **@chinxman Of course... Bacon!**

METRO

On the web

Scan this code or visit metronews.ca/food for a Lobster Poutine recipe from Chef Matt Dean Pettit

4 SPORTS

Cycling

"I was unsettled by the story, but when I read it in the paper ... I realized there was nothing in it."

Europcar manager Jean-Rene Bernaudeau, who said he is stunned by the doping investigation opened by French prosecutors into allegations of improper use of a controlled corticoid by his riders during last year's Tour de France. This year's Tour begins Saturday.

"My team has always been committed to protect the health of its riders."

Jean-Rene Bernaudeau

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

After Middleweight title-holder Anderson Silva promised to break his challenger's legs, the UFC was quick to respond — with a press release to make sure everyone was aware of the outburst. Scan the code for the story.

Germany's Marco Reus stands dejected after a 2-1 semifinal loss to Italy in Warsaw on Thursday. GREGORIO BORGIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy plays spoiler for Germany again

Euro 2012. Balotelli tallies a pair of goals for the right to play Spain for the championship

Mario Balotelli finally showed some quality finishing, scoring twice in the first half Thursday to give Italy a 2-1 win over Germany and an unexpected spot in the European Championship final.

Extending its winless streak against Italy in major tournaments to eight matches, Germany had no answer for Balotelli nor Antonio Cassano's creativity.

In the 20th minute, Balotelli had no trouble getting past Holger Badstuber to head in a pinpoint cross from Cassano. Then in the 36th, the 21-year-old striker received the ball behind the defence and blasted a long shot into the top-right corner.

While he did score against Ireland, Balotelli was criticized for wasting numerous chances against Spain, Croatia and England.

"This is the greatest night of my life, but I hope Sunday is going to be even better," said Balotelli, who went over to his mother after the match and dedicated the goals to her.

"In the opening matches I had a lot of chances, and I wasn't able to finish them. But in football you also need luck."

Germany failed to trouble Italy for much of the match, but Mesut Ozil scored a consolation penalty in injury time after Federico Balzaretti was whistled for a handball.

Germany had entered the game on a world record 15-match winning streak in competitive matches.

"It's a very bitter defeat," Germany captain Philipp Lahm said. "We tried everything in the second half but our goal came too late. We have so much potential in our team but if we cannot give the right performance at the right time or are not clever enough, then we lose such a game."

Italy will face defending champion Spain in Sunday's final in Kyiv, Ukraine — a rematch of their 1-1 draw that opened Group C.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three in a row

Spain is just one victory away from making history by winning its third straight major tournament and securing its reputation as perhaps the greatest national side ever.

Sidney Crosby is on the cusp of signing a megadeal with the Pittsburgh Penguins. A source says the Penguins captain will sign a 12-year extension worth $104.4 million US. GENE J. PUSKAR/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Crosby, Penguins agree on 12-year extension

Sidney Crosby is poised to sign a megadeal with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The team has agreed to a 12-year contract extension with the Penguins captain worth $104.4 million US.

Crosby can't sign the new contract until Sunday when the window opens for player signings.

Crosby is entering the final year of a five-year contract that carries an annual cap hit of $8.7 million.

The new deal will also average $8.7 million per season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Salary cap inflates to $70.2M US

The NHL salary cap is going up, allowing teams to spend about $6 million US more on players this season.

Before opening labour talks, the league and the NHL Players' Association announced the cap has been set at $70.2 million US. That's a significant jump from last year's cap of $64.3 million, and continues the trend of increases since the cap system was established in 2005.

The minimum teams can spend on payroll is also rising, going up from $48 million to $54.2 million.

The announcement comes as the league prepares to open its free-agency period Sunday.

It's unclear what effect labour talks will have on the salary cap. The two sides are opening talks this week in a bid to reach a new deal before the current CBA expires Sept. 15.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Kings locking up Quick for 10 years

Jonathan Quick agreed to a 10-year contract extension on Thursday with the Los Angeles Kings, who locked up their playoff MVP goalie through the 2022-23 season.

Quick won the Conn Smythe Trophy while leading Los Angeles to its first Stanley Cup championship earlier this month, and the Kings rewarded him with an enormous new deal one year before he reached unrestricted free agency. He can't sign the contract until Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Vote on Coyotes' arena deal upheld

A judge has upheld the Glendale city council's vote on an arena lease agreement with a prospective owner of the Phoenix Coyotes.

Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Dean Fink on Thursday rejected a claim by conservative watchdog group Goldwater Institute that the city should have had open bidding on arena operations for Jobing.com Arena, the home of the Coyotes, rather than accept an offer from former San Jose Sharks CEO Greg Jamison. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tennis. 2-time Wimbledon champ Nadal knocked out in the second round

Rafael Nadal GETTY IMAGES FILE

Rafael Nadal bumped into his unknown and unheralded opponent as they headed to a break between games. Perhaps it was incidental contact.

At the previous changeover, Nadal stood and barked at the chair umpire, complaining about being distracted by 100th-ranked Lukas Rosol while serving. Later, Nadal shook his head and frowned when a Wimbledon official explained that, with light fading and the second-round match heading to a fifth set, they'd need a 45-minute break to close the retractable roof and turn on the lights at Centre Court.

Of all the things that rattled Nadal on Thursday evening, the most significant was Rosol's gutsy game — his 22 aces, violent groundstrokes and shot-punctuating staredowns. Put it together and Rosol, making his debut at the All England Club, overpowered 11-time Grand Slam champion Nadal 6-7 (9), 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, one of the most astonishing results in tennis history.

"That's (what) happens when you play against a player who is able to hit the ball very hard, hit the ball without thinking and feeling the pressure," the second-seeded Nadal said. "At the end, when the opponent wants to play like he wanted to play in the fifth (set), you are in his hands, no? Everything was going right for him."

It's the first time since 2005 that Nadal lost in the second round at any major tournament. It also ends two streaks for the Spaniard: He reached the final at the previous five Grand Slams, and also reached the final the last five times he entered Wimbledon, winning the grass-court tournament in 2008 and 2010.

"He played a good match," Rosol said, "but I think I was better today."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Athletics. Zelinka breaks own heptathlon record

Jessica Zelinka is heading to the London Olympics on the heels of a Canadian-record performance.

The 30-year-old from London, Ont., broke her own national heptathlon record Thursday en route to winning the Canadian Olympic track-and-field trials for her seventh national title.

Zelinka posted 6599 points — the third best score in the world this year — to better her previous Canadian-record score of 6490 she set in finishing fifth in the gruelling seven-discipline heptathlon at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"I don't think it's quite sunken in," Zelinka said. "Coming into this meet I didn't count out the possibility of breaking my record; I've been feeling it for awhile,"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Time to kick off

CFL EXTRA POINTS
Dan Toth
ottawa@metronews.ca

A tumultuous CFL off-season is over and a historic campaign is about to kick off. Let's take a quick look at how the teams stack up in the chase for the 100th Grey Cup championship Nov. 25 in Toronto. PHOTOS: THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Argos

The addition of QB Ricky Ray is supposed to spark the Double Blue to a hometown Grey Cup.

Under the guidance of new head coach Scott Milanovich, the former Montreal offensive co-ordinator, the Argos offence should be better than in recent years. The addition of former Calgary defensive co-ordinator Chris Jones, whose pressure schemes were legendary in Cowtown, will make Toronto's defence tougher to attack.

Hamilton Tiger-Cats

The addition of QB Henry Burris, reunited with head coach George Cortez, made Steeltown headlines in the off-season. The signing of SB Andy Fantuz to a fleet-footed receiving corps suggests the Tabbies could contend for the cup. The Cats have question marks on defence, but may have enough talent to earn a ticket to Toronto in November.

Winnipeg Blue Bombers

The team with the longest Grey Cup drought faltered in the big game last November, the final clash for DT Doug Brown, who retired and now wears makeup on TSN.

The Bombers might be the deepest team at QB this season with Buck Pierce, Alex Brink and Joey Elliot. Construction delays with their new stadium forces the Bombers to start the season with four road games. They could find themselves in an early hole.

Montreal Alouettes

The Als' defence was crushed in the East final last fall, forcing significant changes in the offseason.

Montreal brought in new D co-ordinator Jeff Reinebold, who will likely implement a 3-4 defence. QB Anthony Calvillo, who enters his 19th CFL season and turns 40 this year, will again have to answer doubters who feel his career is coming to an end.

B.C. Lions

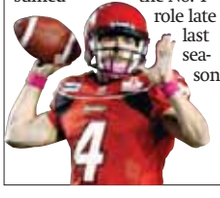
Defending Grey Cup champs lost head coach Wally Buono to the front office in the off-season, but replacement Mike Benevides should make a smooth transition filling the legend's shoes.

The Lions also lost defensive mainstays DL Brent Johnson, CB Davis Sanchez, LB Solomon Elimimian and DT Aaron Hunt. The champs are unlikely to repeat.

Calgary Stampeders

The Stamps experienced significant upheaval over the winter, choosing to make major changes to the roster in an effort to get younger and quicker.

The Stamps dealt former CFL most-outstanding player QB Henry Burris, and released both RB Joffrey Reynolds and WR Ken-Yon Rambo. Key will be the emergence of new starting pivot Drew Tate, who assumed the No. 1 role late last season.



Edmonton Eskimos

Fans are fuming over the trade of QB Ricky Ray to Toronto, and it won't take long to find out whether well-travelled pivot Steven Jyles can find a home in Edmonton.

The move opened up cap space for the Esks, but that doesn't matter if Jyles falls on his face wearing Green and Gold. Edmonton fans have always had great expectations, but little patience.

Saskatchewan Roughriders

After just five wins last season, the Riders not only brought in new head coach Corey Chamblin but also gutted much of their 2011 roster.

Now Chamblin has to hope QB Darian Durant, whose numbers slipped last season, can regain his form behind an improved O-line and the return of trustworthy WR Rob Bagg.

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Hornets take Davis with No. 1 pick

NBA. Fellow Kentucky Wildcat Kidd-Gilchrist goes No. 2

No one-and-done for Kentucky's kids in the NBA draft. The Wildcats instead became the first school to go 1-2.

After the New Orleans Hornets selected Kentucky forward Anthony Davis with the No. 1 pick Thursday, Charlotte followed by taking fellow freshman Michael Kidd-Gilchrist.

The Wildcats are the first school to have the top-two picks, part of what they hoped would be perhaps five or even six players selected in the first round. John Calipari has been criticized for taking "one-and-done" players — they stay the required one year and leave — but he looked thrilled hugging his two stars.

Davis will begin his pro career in the same city where he ended it with a national title. College basketball's player of the year as a freshman was the most outstanding player of the Final Four despite shooting just one for 10 from the field in the championship game, grabbing 16 rebounds and blocking six shots in the victory over Kansas.

Davis slipped on a blue and purple Hornets hat above a conservative grey suit that took no attention away from basketball's most famous eyebrow. Davis even attempted to capitalize on the attention his unibrow gets, trademarking "Fear the Brow" and "Raise the Brow" earlier this month.

Florida's Bradley Beal went third to Washington, making it three SEC freshman in the first three picks.

The Toronto Raptors selected guard Terrence Ross out of the University of Washington with the eighth-overall selection in the NBA draft Thursday.

Ross is a shooting guard/small forward from Portland, Ore., listed at six-foot-seven, and 197 pounds.

The 21-year-old spent two seasons with the Huskies and averaged 16.4 points, 6.4 rebounds and 1.4 assists in his sophomore year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"It's crazy.... We have two down and four more to go. Hopefully all of them will go in the first round."

Anthony Davis, on the possibility of multiple Wildcats players being drafted in the first round.

Anthony Davis of the Kentucky Wildcats hugs his mother Eranier after he was selected first overall by the New Orleans Hornets on Thursday. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

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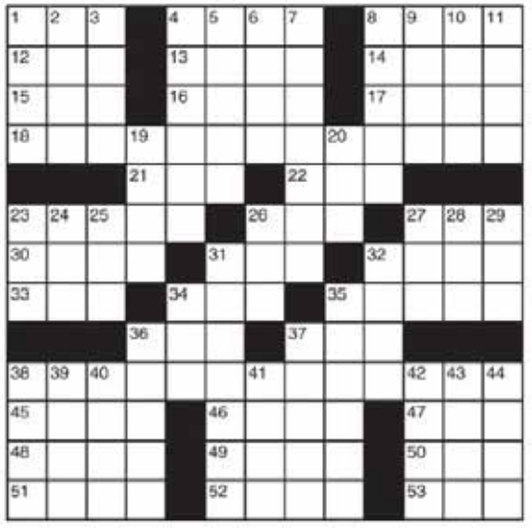
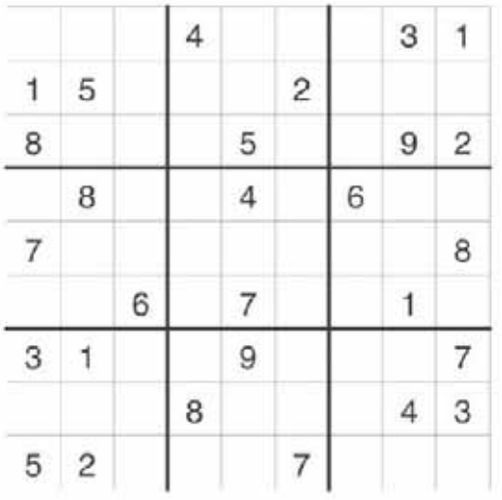
12 Onassis, to pals
13 Passel
14 "— Brockovich"
15 Red or Yellow
16 Brazilian rubber
17 Houston acronym
18 Stuck, in a way
21 "A mouse!"
22 Hem's partner
23 Fear greatly
26 Plead
27 "Great Expectations" lad
30 Path for Hope and Crosby
31 Scepter
32 Denomination
33 Still
34 Send quickly
35 Sanctions
36 — Lanka
37 Messy place
38 Making conversation
45 Wimbledon goose egg
46 Former filly
47 "All the Things You —"
48 Sheltered
49 State with conviction
50 Through
51 Took off
52 11 p.m. broadcast
53 Pitcher part

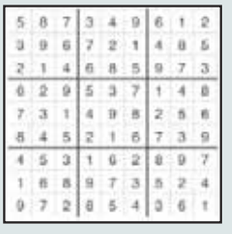
Down
1 Long cut
2 Sandwich treat
3 Use an old phone
4 Caught sight of
5 Type of stare
6 Titanic's undoing
7 Wrapped
8 Get more magazines
9 Bedouin
10 Tower city
11 Hosiery woe
19 Out of play
20 Crone
23 Desiccate
24 Caviar, basically
25 Consume
26 Carton
27 Shell game prop
28 Unfriendly
29 Score units (Abbr.)
31 Hoffman/Cruise movie
32 Terrier type
34 Calendar abbr.
35 "Do unto —"
36 Saccharine
37 Scatter about
38 Talon
39 Golf target
40 Tied
41 Bestowed
42 Four-star review
43 Carreras solo
44 Paraphernalia





How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

TYLJ NLUNKL YZPL BU BASV HUTJ Z ILT LJPLKUNLM, RUXKH BYLO XML Z NZSA UI VZSK RKSNNLAM?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE CARPENTER DIDN'T PUT ENOUGH STAMPS ON THE PACKAGE, SO IT GOT MARKED "RETURN TO SANDER."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals P

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Being a can-do Aries, you always believe that nothing is beyond you but don't fall into the trap of thinking that success will come easy.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. This may be a difficult 24 hours for you but you can make things easier for yourself by not thinking and acting as if you are a victim.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Times are good and about to get even better, and those who say otherwise are either too short-sighted to see the truth or enjoy talking you down.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. The Sun in your sign at odds with Pluto today means you're going to have to choose between two vastly different options. Choose the one with which you're most comfortable.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. There may be times you don't take life too seriously but today even the smallest issue will be expanded in your eyes to world-shattering importance.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You may be a stickler for the rules but today take whatever shortcuts you can to get from where you are to where you need to be.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You will have to trust someone's judgment and let them take the lead role in whatever task you are jointly involved. Don't try to offer advice — just watch closely and learn.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Can you change the habits of a lifetime? You'll find out today as Pluto, your ruler, is opposed by the Sun, forcing you to adapt to situations you know little if anything about.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Be assertive today and make sure you get what you believe you deserve. If it results in a fight, well, that's how it is sometimes.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Make sure you are on top of the facts today because if you are not, you may make a serious error. However, once you do have all the facts, make your decision and stick with it.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. This may be an exciting time for you but today's Sun-Pluto link urges you not to take risks that can, with a bit of foresight, be easily avoided.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. The Sun in Cancer boosts your self-belief but you need to tread carefully, especially when dealing with people whose outlook on life is very different to your own. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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"This laser surgery is amazing, even my night vision has improved."
Mel

THE SUN, RYAN BRENNECKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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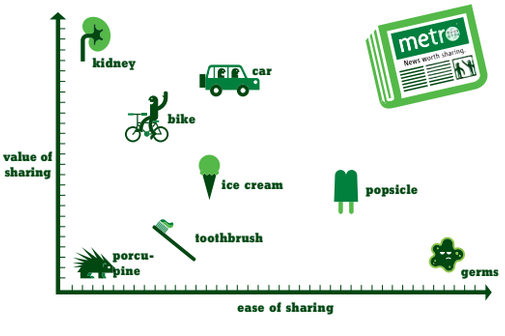

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10k	$16.11/g
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Gold Bar Buying Prices

Gold Bars | Buy Price

Gold 1 ounce (Recognized)	$1,477.62
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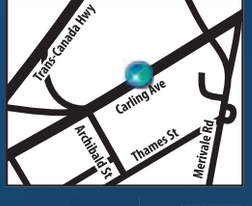

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